LETTERS FROM EUROPE FROCH-KESSLER IS A COMPELLING REMATCH

THE BIBLE OF BOXING

The RING®

BIRTHRIGHT

STRONG GROUP OF MEXICAN-AMERICANS CARRIES ON ENDURING TRADITION

VICTOR ORTIZ

ROBERT GUERRERO

LEO SANTA CRUZ

UNHAPPY RETURNS

BOXERS OFTEN HAVE A TOUGH TIME STAYING RETIRED

FATHER-SON ACT

ANGEL GARCIA FIRES OFF WORDS, SON DANNY PUNCHES

HOMECOMING

SERGIO MARTINEZ RETURNS TO ARGENTINA A HERO

TOO YOUNG TO DIE

OMAR HENRY NEVER HAD A CHANCE TO BLOSSOM

MAY 2013

05

0 72246 00396 1

$8.95

TRAIN
HARD.
HIT
HARDER.
THE NIKE
HyperKO MP
Available at ATHLETEPS.COM

CONTENTS / MAY 2013

FEATURES

COVER STORY PACKAGE

38 | ENDURING TRADITION
MEXICAN-AMERICAN BOXERS' RECORD OF SUCCESS CONTINUES
By Don Stradley

46 | NEW SHERIFF IN TOWN
MIKEY GARCIA'S BLEND OF POWER, SAVVY IS PROVING FORMIDABLE
By Norm Frauenheim

52 | BEST IN THE BIZ
TOP 10 MEXICAN-AMERICAN BOXERS
By Doug Fischer

58 | OVERSTAYED WELCOMES
BOXERS HAVE A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE HABIT OF STICKING AROUND TOO LONG
By Bernard Fernandez

64 | BARK AND BITE
ANGEL AND DANNY GARCIA ARE AN EFFECTIVE FATHER-SON TEAM
By Ron Borges

70 | WELCOME HOME
SERGIO MARTINEZ RETURNS TO ARGENTINA A CONQUERING HERO
By Bart Barry

76 | A LIFE CUT SHORT
OMAR HENRY DIED OF CANCER BEFORE HE COULD REALIZE HIS POTENTIAL
By Gary Andrew Poole

82 | UNTAPPED SOURCE?

OLYMPIC CHAMPION ZOU SHIMING COULD BE THE FIRST STAR FROM CHINA
By Tim Smith

DEPARTMENTS

4 | RINGSIDE

5 | OPENING SHOTS

10 | COME OUT WRITING

11 | READY TO GRUMBLE
By David Greisman

15 | ROLL WITH THE PUNCHES
Jabs and Straight Writes by Thomas Hauser

22 | BEST I'VE FACED: ZAB JUDAH
By Mike Coppinger

24 | OUTSIDE THE ROPES
By Brian Harty

26 | RING CARD GIRL

30 | RING RATINGS PACKAGE

89 | LETTERS FROM EUROPE
By Gareth A Davies

94 | RINGSIDE REPORTS

100 | WORLDWIDE RESULTS

102 | COMING UP

104 | NEW FACES: TERENCE CRAWFORD
By Mike Coppinger

106 | SIX PACK
By T.K. Stewart

108 | WOMEN'S BOXING
By Ryan Songalia

110 | WHAT EVER HAPPENED TO ...?
By Don Stradley

112 | FROM THE ARCHIVE

114 | AT THE FIGHTS

AT RINGTV.COM

BRONER-REES PHOTOS
GO TO: http://bit.ly/XCjerH

Q & A: AL BERNSTEIN
GO TO: http://bit.ly/YCG2Jb

10 GREATEST ONE-PUNCH KOS
GO TO: http://bit.ly/12cWwgF

MAYWEATHER: ONE OF A KIND

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

The announcement that Floyd Mayweather Jr. had signed a deal with Showtime for up to six fights over 30 months was important for a number of reasons.

Mayweather's defection from HBO to its rival was a major coup for Showtime, which instantly became more competitive with the industry leader. And, if basic economic principles come into play, increased competition should result in a better product – or better fight cards – on the premium channels going forward.

The presumed contract numbers are impressive. *Forbes Magazine* estimated that Mayweather could make at least $250 million, or a little over $40 million per fight if he steps into the ring six times.

The deal, which begins with a fight against Robert Guerrero on May 4, is one of the richest in the history of sports. We really shouldn't be surprised, though. Mayweather earned a combined $85 million for his last two fights, making him the richest athlete in the world over that period, according to *Forbes*.

A quarter of billion for six fights? Par for the course.

Mayweather isn't as popular as LeBron James or Lionel Messi or Tiger Woods, superstar athletes who make far less money that he does. He just happens to be the biggest thing going in the right sport.

The boxing formula is simple: Mayweather generates around 1 million pay-per-view buys at $59.95 each (more for high definition) every time he fights. That's $60 million in domestic pay-per-view income alone, of which Mayweather gets a percentage. It doesn't include other sources of revenue.

Of course, the formula only works for Mayweather. Not even Pacquiao (who earned $56 million in ring over the same period Mayweather earned $85 million) can generate quite the same numbers.

That's why the deal was so important for Showtime: It now has on its roster the king of boxing and the highest individual money earner in sports, which of course will benefit the network both financially and in terms of prestige.

The element of the contract that was most intriguing to me was the number of fights. Mayweather apparently isn't required to fight six times over 2½ years; however, he said he wants to fight more often than his typical once a year.

"The fans want to see a lot more of me. I will give you excitement," Mayweather said after the announcement.

I can see Mayweather fighting twice a year over the next three years if he continues to win. He hasn't fought more than once a year since 2007.

That's more exciting than the Showtime coup or the ridiculous amount of money involved. If you like him, you'll have the opportunity to see him do his thing twice as often. If you don't, you know you'll be watching anyway.

Mayweather is must-see TV. That's why he makes so much money, why Showtime wanted him and why we care. ■

The RING

VOLUME 92, NO. 5 | MAY 2013

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer
(1888-1972)

EDITOR
Michael Rosenthal

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Douglass Fischer

CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
Brian Harty

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Naoki Fukuda, Dave Allen

ART DIRECTOR
Sharon Kaplan

COVER DESIGN
ANYONE™ COLLECTIVE

RING CARD GIRLS CONTRIBUTOR
Heather Shanholtz

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Robert Gasparri
213-233-2952
sepub@sepublications.com

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS
P.O. BOX 433122
Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122
1-800-846-6438
thering@emailcustomerservice.com

BACK ISSUES
215-643-3087 OR ONLINE AT RINGTV.COM

DIGITAL EDITION INQUIRIES
support@imirus.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com
or P.O. BOX 251753,
Los Angeles CA, 90025

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 92, No. 5 (May 2013), is published monthly by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, 510 Township Line Rd., Suite 130, Blue bell, PA 19422. Periodicals postage paid at Blue Bell, PA 19422 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: THE RING, P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S. and Canada (£4.95 in the UK). Subscription price $78.70 in the U.S., $127.10 in Canada and Mexico, $143.70 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2012 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRES AND RATES: (213) 233-2952. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable Distribution Services Inc., 14 Wall Street, Suite 4C, New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, UK distribution by Comag Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England. **Printed in U.S.A.**

JOB WELL DONE: Adrien Broner took a few rounds to get rolling but once he did … well, this is the result. Broner put his speed and power on eye-popping display once again, pounding a helpless Gavin Rees until the fight was mercifully stopped with a second to go in the fifth round Feb. 16 in Atlantic City, N.J.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

TAKE THAT: Three-time U.S. Olympian Rau'shee Warren (right) is finding his groove as a professional fighter, as Richard Hernandez found out the hard way on the Adrien Broner-Gavin Rees card. Warren stopped Hernandez in the second round, the talented bantamweight's first knockout and third victory in as many fights.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Cherry
EVERLAST
Corona
R&R

DOWN AND OUT: Edner Cherry had good reason to celebrate on the Adrien Broner-Gavin Rees card – a sixth-round knockout of former U.S. Olympian Vicente Escobedo, arguably the biggest victory of Cherry's 13-year career. The 30-year-old Bahamian has won his last seven official fights. Escobedo has been stopped in consecutive bouts.

Image: Al Bello-Getty

MAYWEATHER VS. GUERRERO

UNDERDOG CAN DO DAMAGE

Given the surprising competitiveness of Miguel Cotto in Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s last fight, I think Guerrero has pretty good chance of doing some damage to Mayweather. He's one inch taller than Cotto, his reach is three inches longer and he's a lot fresher and in some ways nastier than Cotto. I don't think Guerrero is going to allow Mayweather to dictate the distance and pot-shot him. I think he's going to get right up in Mayweather's grill and make this ugly. How would Mayweather deal with possibly being cut or roughed up? I don't see Guerrero winning but I think he can take Mayweather places he would not want to go.

Stephen de Villiers Graaff
Cape Town, South Africa

MAYWEATHER WILL PREVAIL

I like the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero matchup both on paper and inside the ring. I think Guerrero's momentum will carry him through the first few rounds of the fight. But at the end of the day Mayweather will prove that while his legs aren't what they once were, his mind is still sharp, and he will find a way to make the proper adjustments to throw off Guerrero's timing and ultimately win a competitive unanimous decision. Guerrero has the heart of a lion but failed to make necessary adjustments against Andre Berto throughout the course of that fight (continuously getting hit with the left hook) and as Mayweather always says, "If you make a mistake, you must pay." I don't believe Mayweather will get much credit if he beats "The Ghost." People will discredit Berto as "HBO hype" and most of the masses have never heard of Guerrero's previous opponent, Selcuk Aydin. In fact, I think the perception of Mayweather will be clouded for many years. Only after he has retires will people appreciate his greatness. And if he somehow loses to Guerrero, his entire career will be discredited by many people.

Mike Samuels
Grand Rapids, Mich.

BEST POSSIBLE MATCHUP

Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero is the best matchup for both guys at 147 pounds. Hands down. Right now, Guerrero has the best chance at beating Mayweather, a much better chance than Miguel Cotto had. Mayweather's big advantage over Cotto was his height. Guerrero is taller, younger, stronger and maybe a tad quicker than Cotto. Mayweather's also getting older and he's been inactive. That might hurt him. After all, he's just a man. And I think it's time for a new star to emerge. Guerrero deserves this chance.

Mike
Philadelphia

BRONER VULNERABLE?

I know Adrien Broner has been a major topic of conversation. I'll agree with the masses. One, Broner is highly entertaining; two, Broner is the future of boxing; and, three, Broner has the skill set to keep him at the top.

BUT he has shown that he is quite vulnerable. The most apparent flaw is that he is more worried about his microphone working and rapping as he walks to the ring than he is about fighting. Even as he entered the ring, he was busy showing off. In doing so it took him three rounds to get his head in the game. Rees easily won the first two rounds because he was ready to go to battle from the opening bell; Broner was not ready. If Rees was a real power threat, things could have gone south for Broner in a hurry to start the fight off.

If I were Broner's trainer, I would suggest a fast and furious fight right from the get go because Broner is more interested in entertaining at the start of a fight than he is interested in boxing.

Zach Thoms
Milwaukee

WRITE TO THE RING!

COME OUT WRITING, THE RING
P.O. Box 251753
Los Angeles, CA 90025
comeoutwriting@sepublications.com

E-mailed letters will include a writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Say what you will about Adrien Broner's unusual antics, which are entertaining to some and obnoxious to others. The ability he demonstrates once the bell rings suggest that the lightweight from Cincinnati will be a major player in the sport for a long time.

GET USED TO BRONER

By: **David Greisman**

You might as well get used to Adrien Broner — get used to the jokes that fall as flat on their faces as his opponents do, get used to the hair brushing and the dancing after he scores a knockdown and the rapping en route to the ring and any of the many other gimmicks that are sure to surface.

Get used to them, because if there's one thing we've learned when looking beyond those routines, it's that Broner is no gimmick when he's between those ropes. He's a 23-year-old prodigy, and if he can go on to defeat fighters such as Danny Garcia or Lucas Matthysse in the way that he's dismantled Antonio DeMarco and Gavin Rees, then he will become boxing's next great superstar.

There was a time when we didn't know what to make of him. He had arrived on our TV screens as a potentially abominable wannabe combination of Floyd Mayweather Jr. and Roy Jones Jr. He has remained on our screens because he is a winning combination of his idols. There's no need to contrast him with them anymore — he is not Adrien Broner Mayweather Jones Jr. Jr. Jr., despite the comparisons in narcissistic personalities and pugilistic styles.

Broner now stands out as a fighter, and he has begun to distance himself from the ranks of the other titleholders, contenders and pretenders. It's not that he's even proven himself to be the best at junior lightweight and lightweight. But he's beating his opponents badly — decisively, dismissively and with disturbing ease.

He's come a long way from barely defeating Daniel Ponce de Leon. It seemed unfair that Broner would be featured again and again on HBO immediately after that, being allowed to embarrass gimme foes such as Jason Litzau and Vicente Rodriguez, neither of whom stood a chance of remaining standing.

It had become clear that we were going to see a lot of Broner back when he was essentially being given the spotlight. What's even clearer now is that he's earning this attention — and that we will see more of him so long as he keeps producing these highlights.

.....

It is completely acceptable to be excited by Gennady Golovkin without necessarily being excited about him. And if you want to be excited about Golovkin, that's also fine — it just depends on your expectations.

Some of us hype fighters before their accomplishments ever match their acclaim. And some of us hate hyped fighters, celebrating the moments in which they are not only defeated, but deflated. Neither of these attitudes is fair. We should not only care about a boxer when he is winning, and only if he is winning against top opposition. Nor should we stop following a fighter once he's proven to be neither world class nor a world-beater.

Golovkin's résumé at middleweight hasn't shown him to be either just yet, despite the fact that he's won all 25 of his fights, knocked out all but three of his foes, scored 12 KOs in a row and brutalized Gabriel Rosado so badly that Rosado's trainer was caught on camera worrying about his fighter's health.

No, he hasn't beaten any of the other titleholders or top contenders in the 160-pound division. And no, there doesn't need to be a rush to push him into a shot at the champion, Sergio Martinez.

Yet he is wholly deserving of airtime on HBO, even if you're in that camp that is waiting for the one opponent who will capitalize on Golovkin's flaws and expose him as powerful but limited.

Even if that happens, Golovkin represents what we have long wanted from the television networks — to put on a boxer who will be in entertaining fights, no matter his skill level, and to search for talent from outside of the United States in order to feature a more representative sample of what the boxing world can offer.

Nobody needed to complain about Arturo Gatti being on HBO against second- and third-tier opposition. They already knew what Gatti was and what he wasn't. And they also knew what they were going to get when he was on the air. Golovkin and Gatti are different as fighters, but what they do share is a fan-friendly, fist-flying approach to action.

It's completely acceptable for the networks to spend money on Golovkin fights, so long as we are also ending up richer for it.

.....

The fragmentation of boxing has long been good for the boxers, but bad for the sport.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Only time will tell how good hard-punching middleweight contender Gennady Golovkin will be but we know what we'll get whenever he fights: all-out action, which is an excellent reason for HBO to showcase him.

Having so many promoters means that the fighters can potentially have bidders competing for their services, promising them more money. Yet promotional rivalries also pose obstacles to boxing rivalries, preventing fighters from being allowed to prove their superiority over those in opposing stables.

Having so many sanctioning bodies has meant that more fighters can get title shots, which has brought some boxers out of the poverty that accompanies obscurity and closer to the paydays that are the rewards of glory. Yet these sanctioning bodies have made it difficult for the casual fan to follow the sport, to know who is worth watching.

And now the fragmentation of boxing is keeping us from cleaning up the latest scourge in a sport whose history is one of filth — the potential prevalence of boxers using performance enhancing drugs. The several sanctioning bodies and the dozens of state and tribal athletic commissions need to enact reforms. The promoters and boxers need to be willing to contribute to the cost of increased integrity.

The ability for fighters to get away with using banned substances is a situation that cannot be remedied without a mass — and massive — effort to improve a drug testing system with bigger holes in it than Vitali Klitschko's face had after six rounds with Lennox Lewis.

Find your beach.
Corona
Extra
MADE IN MEXICO
MARC. REG.
LA CERVEZA MAS FINA
BEER
12 FL. OZ.
Brewed and bottled by
CERVECERIA MODELO, S.A. DE C.V.
MEXICO, D.F.
REG. S.S.A. Nº 7417 "B"
Relax responsibly.®
Imported by Crown Imports LLC, Chicago, IL 60603

WORDS FROM THE WISE

By: **Thomas Hauser**

Teddy Brenner is widely regarded as the greatest matchmaker in the history of boxing. He began making matches in New Jersey shortly after World War II. Stints in New York at Madison Square Garden, the Coney Island Velodrome, Long Beach Stadium, Eastern Parkway Arena and St. Nicholas Arena followed. In 1959, he returned to The Garden, where he served as matchmaker and, later, president of Madison Square Garden Boxing. He left MSG in 1978 and spent the last years of his career with Top Rank.

Brenner died in 2000. His legacy lives on in memories of the fights he made and the axioms of his trade that are now part of boxing lore. Among the words of wisdom that Brenner offered were:

Image: THE RING

Legendary matchmaker Teddy Brenner's sage words are clear evidence that he understood the sport as few have.

"A matchmaker is a guy who starts fights. Then he gets out of the way and lets other people finish them."

"There's only two types of fighters: those who can fight and those who can't."

"Managers are always suspicious that the other guy is getting a better deal."

More on page 16

QUICK QUIZ

1. Who was the first man to win world championships in three different weight divisions?

2. Eight fighters are credited in the *RING Record Book* with having scored 100 or more knockouts in their professional career, including the man on the left in this photo. Who are they?

3. Lee Epperson had one professional fight. Why was it significant?

JABS & STRAIGHT WRITES

By Thomas Hauser

"Before I make a fight, I ask myself, 'Is this a good fight? Does the fight lead anywhere? And would I buy a ticket to watch it?'"

.....

"There's heavyweight boxing. And then there's everything else."

.....

"Matchmaking is not simply a matter of putting No. 1 against No. 2. Anybody can do that."

.....

"It isn't easy to be a matchmaker. If a fight you make is good, the fighters get the credit. If it's bad, the matchmaker gets the blame."

.....

"Fans want to see the best fights. That doesn't necessarily mean the best fighters."

.....

"A matchmaker has to convince both sides that they can win the fight. It's a bit of a con."

"All I ever wanted in this game was to put on the best fights I could make."

.....

"I wouldn't fix a fight for my own brother. That doesn't mean everybody in boxing feels that way."

.....

"Nobody is perfect. But there's one goddamn thing I know, and that is that nobody knows more about how to make a match than I do."

"The matchmaker has to deal with people, and people are always up to something. They're always making deals and then changing their mind. People can be a lot of trouble."

.....

Guys call me up and say, 'Who do I have to see and who do I have to know?' Well, they have to see me and they have to know me."

QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. Bob Fitzsimmons won the middleweight title in 1891, the heavyweight championship in 1897 and the light heavyweight crown in 1903.

2. According to the *RING Record Book*, boxing's knockout kings are Archie Moore (130), Young Stribling (126), Billy Bird (125), George Odwell (114), Sugar Ray Robinson (110), Sandy Saddler (103), Sam Langford (102) and Henry Armstrong (100). Saddler is pictured on Page 15.

3. Rocky Marciano made his pro debut against Epperson on March 17, 1947, and knocked him out in the third round.

Thomas Hauser can be reached by email at thauser@rcn.com. His most recent book — *And the New ...: An Inside Look at Another Year in Boxing* was published by the University of Arkansas Press.

Image: Courtesy of Boxrec.com

John Sheppard provides a service that has proved to be invaluable for everyone in the boxing business.

UNSUNG HEROES

JOHN SHEPPARD

Boxing has its share of unsung heroes. John Sheppard is one of them.

Sheppard is a 48-year-old Englishman who once worked for Naseem Hamed's promotional company. As the 20th century drew to a close, he put together a small database for internal use to track British boxers. Then ...

"The Internet was taking off at the time," Sheppard said. "I asked myself, 'Why not put the data up on the Internet so everyone can use it?'"

In May 2000, Sheppard rented space on a server. "It was a hobby more than anything else," he said. "I paid for it out of my own pocket. Then I got an email from someone in America saying that he was a record collector and wanted to help, so I gave him the password. After that, there were more emails from more collectors."

Boxrec.com now has about 100 contributing editors, all of whom work for free. With Sheppard as their coordinator, they've fashioned and are sharing a database that's unparalleled in the history of boxing.

Boxrec.com is one of the most heavily-trafficked boxing websites in the world. On an average day, it has 80,000 visitors who view 600,000 pages. Its database includes 1,700,000 bouts, encompassing more than 19,000 active and 467,000 non-active fighters. Those numbers keep growing as new fights take place and old ones are recorded.

There are frequent suggestions that Sheppard turn Boxrec.com into a pay site, but he has steadfastly resisted the lure of gold. "The only possible motive would be mercenary," he said. "That's not why I started the site. That's not what it's all about."

Boxrec.com is boxing's indispensable website. Virtually everyone, from promoters and television executives to fighters and fans, uses it. People take it for granted. But boxing would miss Boxrec.com if it were gone.

ADVANCED DEGREES

Degrees of separation between fighters of today and their predecessors. This month: Hall of Fame light heavyweight "Slapsie" Maxie Rosenbloom, who fought from the early 1920s to the late '30s, to future Hall of Famer Roy Jones Jr.

THE RING, Getty

MAXIE ROSENBLOOM
fought …

Lou Nova, who fought …

Lee Savold, who fought …

Rocky Marciano, who fought …

Archie Moore, who fought …

Muhammad Ali, who fought …

Trevor Berbick, who fought …

Iran Barkley, who fought …

James Toney, who fought …

▼

ROY JONES JR.

FIGHTERS' FAVORITES

WHAT BOXERS ARE INTO OUTSIDE THE SPORT

>>> PAULIE MALIGNAGGI

WBA welterweight titleholder from Brooklyn, N.Y.

MUSIC: I like a lot of hip-hop. Eminem is my favorite hip-hop artist. I also like a lot of '80s music like Guns N' Roses and Metallica, so I have a varied taste in music.
CAR: My favorite car is probably a Lamborghini Diablo, but if I could get me a Maserati or an Aston Martin, I'd be happy.
FOOD: It varies on my mood, but I would say ravioli with lobster sauce.
TATTOOS: I have one tattoo on my back: the word "immortal" with a sword stabbing through the entire word and boxing gloves hanging off both ends of the sword with blood dripping from the gloves. To me it means the immortality I feel when I'm inside the ring as a fighter. The blood dripping along with the sweat I put in when I'm fighting obviously is the sacrifice I'm putting in to achieve my goals and success in the ring, and the sword means the warrior mentality. It's the only one I have.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Roberto Baggio, a soccer player (Italian).
MOVIE: *Braveheart* with Mel Gibson.
VIDEO GAME: *FIFA 13*. The only video game I play. I don't even play the boxing games; I only play the *FIFA* games.

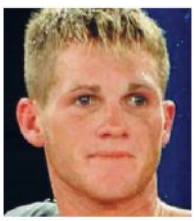
>>> GENNADY GOLOVKIN

WBA middleweight titleholder from Kazakhstan

MUSIC: Michael Jackson.
CAR: Mercedes-Benz.
FOOD: Meat, especially beef.
TATTOOS: None.
ATHLETE (OUTSIDE BOXING): Alexander Karelin (Greco-Roman wrestler) and Michael Phelps (swimmer).
MOVIE: *Apocalypto.*
VIDEO GAME: *Mario Brothers, Tanks.*

>>> THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN

Super middleweight contender from South Africa



MUSIC: I love of all genres of music. Favorites at the moment are DJ Fresh and DJ Euphoria.
CAR: Aston Martin – dream car!
FOOD: Aunty Michelle's sundried tomato and Mascarpone soup
TATTOOS: Five in total – stars on my stomach and behind my ear, a saint (my father's boxing alias) on my thigh, boxing gloves on my right hand, and a bulldog with boxing gloves on my right inner forearm.
ATHLETE: Lionel Messi.
MOVIE: *Troy.*
VIDEO GAMES: *Halo 3* and *Fight Night 4*.

Images: Getty, Bongarts, Naoki Fukuda

GOOD, BAD, WORSE

THE BEST AND WORST IN BOXING FROM THE PAST MONTH

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

GOOD

I don't buy Lamont Peterson's excuse after he tested positive for excessive amounts of testosterone following his fight against Amir Khan in 2011. The IBF junior welterweight titleholder said he had testosterone pellets implanted on the advice of a doctor because he had low levels of the hormone. Doesn't matter. He's responsible for what goes into his body. That said, the fact he enlisted the Voluntary Anti-Doping Association – the same organization that busted him and the most stringent in the business – says a lot about his commitment to remain clean going forward. Peterson should be applauded for that.

BAD

A British tabloid reported in early February that Muhammad Ali was near death, "news" that was picked up and disseminated worldwide. The source was Ali's brother, Rahman Ali, who was quoted as saying that "The Greatest" could die within days. Muhammad Ali's wife quickly debunked the story, releasing a photo of her healthy-looking husband watching the Super Bowl. Rahman Ali later said his words were twisted even though it's difficult to believe The Sun would make up quotes. What a mess. The lesson here? Muhammad Ali deserves better than a gruesome death watch. We all know he's not well. Let's enjoy the fact he remains with us and not hurry along his demise.

WORSE

I was disappointed to receive letters from readers who objected to Orlando Cruz winning our Most Inspirational year-end award. Cruz became the first boxer to acknowledge publicly that he's gay, which we applauded by honoring him. We weren't making a judgment about his sexual orientation; that's his business, not ours. We were acknowledging the courage it took for Cruz to go public with something so personal – his way of saying "this is who I am" – even though he knew he would open himself to harsh criticism or even ridicule. The overwhelming reaction was unqualified support for him, which indicates how far our society has come. That some closed-minded fans have been left behind is sad.

10 A MONTHLY BOXING LIST

THIS MONTH: No American has held a major heavyweight title since June 2007, the end of Shannon Briggs' reign as WBO titleholder. Here are the last 10 Americans to wear a major heavyweight belt (WBC, IBF, WBA or WBO).

SHANNON BRIGGS: WBO, 2006-07

HASIM RAHMAN: WBC, 2005-06

LAMON BREWSTER: WBO, 2004-06

JOHN RUIZ: WBA, 2004-05

ROY JONES JR.: WBA, 2003-04

CHRIS BYRD: IBF, 2002-06

HASIM RAHMAN: IBF and WBC, 2001

JOHN RUIZ: WBA, 2001-03

EVANDER HOLYFIELD: WBA, 2000-01

CHRIS BYRD: WBO, 2000

RING POLL

A MONTHLY POLL OF OUR RINGTV.COM READERS.

Floyd Mayweather Jr. returns to the ring this spring. And it's never too early to ask our readers what outcome they expect. Thus, we queried: **What will be the result of the Floyd Mayweather Jr.-Robert Guerrero fight on May 4?** Here are the results.

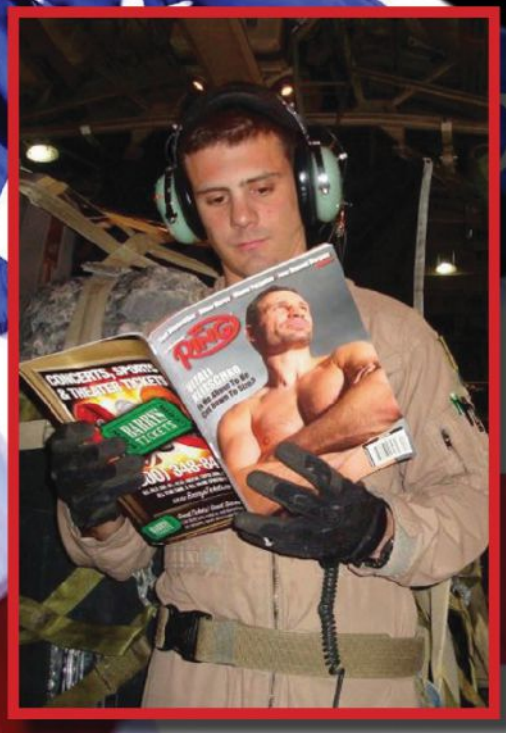
THE PERCENTAGES:

MAYWEATHER BY DECISION	52.1
MAYWEATHER BY KO	17.8
GUERRERO BY KO	16.5
GUERRERO BY DECISION	12.3
DRAW	1.3

NOTE: 5,375 READERS VOTED IN THE POLL.

15% OFF FOR ALL ACTIVE MILITARY & VETERANS

INCLUDES SUBSCRIPTION TO THE DIGITAL EDITION!!



GET 12 ISSUES FOR $45.50

LIKE GETTING 7 ISSUES FREE

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

SPECIAL TROOP OFFER!!
PROMO CODE: 6301ML

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐ CHECK / MONEY ORDER (ENCLOSED & PAYABLE TO SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS ,LLC) ☐ VISA ☐ MASTERCARD ☐ AMEX

CARD # / EXP. DATE

3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: SPORTS & ENTERTAINMENT PUBLICATIONS LLC, P.O. BOX 433122, PALM COAST, FL 32164-3122
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA & MEXICO: $45.50 FOR ONE YEAR. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $119.50 FOR ONE YEAR. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT (8) WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/13.

Stands up to the job.™

Weighs 2.2 lbs so you can work all day without feeling it.

Sinks 207 2 1/2" drywall screws on a single charge.

3 LED lights provide visibility without shadows.

GUARANTEED TOUGH® with the features your jobsite demands.

The New 12V MAX* Lithium Ion System

DEWALT

visit www.dewalt.com/12VMAX

*Maximum initial battery pack voltage (measured without a workload) is 12 volts. Measured under a workload, nominal voltage is 10.8.

Copyright © 2010 DEWALT. The following are examples of trademarks for one or more DEWALT Power Tools and Accessories: The yellow and black color scheme; the "D" – shaped air intake grill; the array of pyramids on the handgrip; the kit box configuration; and the array of lozenge-shaped humps on the surface of the tool.

Image: Al Bello-Getty

Zab Judah said Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s slickness and resilience made him the best overall fighter he ever faced.

ZAB JUDAH

By: **Mike Coppinger**

Zab Judah has fought most of the top names around his weight over the past 15 years. He has lost most of his marquee fights – including setbacks against Kostya Tszyu, Miguel Cotto and Floyd Mayweather— but has usually given a good account of himself and was Mayweather's toughest test since Jose Luis Castillo.

Judah's most significant victory came in 2007 when he knocked out Cory Spinks in their rematch to become the undisputed and RING welterweight champion.

Now 35 and back at his more natural weight of 140, Judah's next fight will take place on April 27 in his hometown of Brooklyn, N.Y., where he will try to earn the RING strap in a second division when he faces Danny Garcia.

THE RING caught up with Judah (42-7, 29 knockouts) at his gym in Las Vegas during preparation for the Garcia fight, which was originally slated for Feb. 9 but was postponed because Garcia suffered a rib injury.

Judah revealed the best fighters he has faced in 10 key categories.

BEST OVERALL
FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

His slickness and the way he is able to overcome things. I had Floyd early – I had him. He was able to get out of that. He's not a hard puncher but he's a volume puncher. He knows how to wear guys down. He adjusts well. But right up there with him is Mickey Ward. He's a tough, tough, tough guy.

BEST BOXER
CORY SPINKS AND MAYWEATHER

Cory Spinks is a good fighter, but people don't give Cory credit. He uses the jab good, the lateral movement. I was more physical (in the rematch). Heading into the first fight, I didn't realize how fast he was. He's really hard to hit. For the second fight we made adjustments. When I hit him with the left hand (that ended the fight), his eyes rolled around in the back of his head. I saw the white part and was like, "Yo ref, look at him."

BEST JAB
ANTHONY JOHNSON

It was an early fight and he probably doesn't fight anymore [he fought only two times after facing Judah in 1997] but he could box. It took a while to get around his jab; he had good lateral movement. He was in and out with his jab. Eventually I caught up with him and knocked him out. He had a better jab than Floyd. Floyd didn't really have a good jab; he's better at setting traps.

BEST DEFENSE
MAYWEATHER

A lot of times he was right there, and when I went to hit him he was gone. He was like a genie; he kept getting out of the way. You have to aim for his chest.

BEST CHIN
LUCAS MATTHYSSE

I hit him with some hard uppercuts and hooks and left hands – he took it. A lot of times I said to myself, "OK, he's about to go now," and he just kept coming.

BEST PUNCHER
MATTHYSSE

He hit so hard, I didn't want to turn my head and get hit with a punch I didn't see, so I was like, "Let me go down." [Judah took a knee in Round 10 of that victory.] If I would have tried to fight him there and done something stupid, I probably would have got knocked out cold.

Image: Frank Franklin II-Associated Press
Zab Judah said he never faced a fighter physically stronger than Miguel Cotto, who stopped Judah in 11 rounds in 2007.

FASTEST HANDS
SPINKS AND MAYWEATHER

We knew going into the fight Cory had good hand speed.

FASTEST FEET
MAYWEATHER

Floyd gets out of the way quick. He knows how to use that ring, he knows how to move around.

SMARTEST
MICKEY WARD

He was really smart. He set me up for that body shot so sweet. He just kept setting me up, setting me up, setting me up. He knew what to do in there, but I overcame it. I was mad they left me out of the first film [laughs]. It would have put a damper on the movie. [Judah was referring to *The Fighter*.]

STRONGEST
MIGUEL COTTO

Cotto was very physically strong on the inside. Very strong.

THE BREAK UP

By: **Brian Harty**

Less than a week after Valentine's Day, Floyd Mayweather Jr. made two announcements. The first, that he would fight Robert Guerrero on May 4, wasn't a surprise. The second, however, was a doozy: Mayweather walked away from his seemingly unassailable marriage to HBO for a deal with Showtime (and parent company CBS) giving him as many as six pay-per-view fights over a 30-month period.

The move severed ties that stretched all the way back to 1996 when Mayweather emerged from the Olympics with a bronze medal and began his pro career. HBO televised his first world title fight, against Genaro Hernandez in 1998 for the WBC junior lightweight belt, and all but one of the 25 victories that followed.

It was Leonard Ellerbe, CEO of Mayweather Promotions, who pushed the relationship metaphor as a way to describe the change:

"Sometimes, after you've been in a long-term relationship, you'll find yourself in another environment and you see someone else who makes it crystal clear to you what they see in you and why they want to be in a relationship with you, and they have all the credentials to prove themselves," he told MLive.com.

Sort of makes you wonder if someone broke the big guy's heart at some point. Of course, that tear in the corner of Ellerbe's eye was more likely from the strain of holding back the dance spasms. The winning deal apparently involved some very large numbers.

"We made an aggressive and responsible pay-per-view offer," an HBO spokesman said. "Now we move on."

Responsible! That's where they screwed up. You can't be responsible when it comes to romance. You gotta keep 'em from looking over your shoulder during the slow dance. You gotta do crazy stuff, promise the Moon. You gotta try really, really, really hard.

"I want you to use all of these words," Ellerbe told Yahoo! Sports, "Showtime really, really, really, really, really stepped up in what they offered Floyd." (See? Showtime knows how to do it!)

The details are secret, but keep in mind that Mayweather made $45 million fighting Miguel Cotto last year, and it's safe to assume that a pay cut wasn't acceptable. The contract was described in a Showtime press release as potentially "the richest individual athlete deal in all of sports." For it to fully reach that potential, Mayweather will need to fight all six times in the 30-month span. That means he'd have to fight twice as often: His last six fights were spread over more than 70 months. But Ellerbe said more action is exactly what Mayweather wants.

Image: Chris Trotman-Getty

Floyd Mayweather Jr.'s defection from HBO to Showtime had the boxing world abuzz in February.

It does beg the question, though: Are there even six worthy opponents out there? Maybe 2015's biggest pay-per-view will be Mayweather-Alvarez IV? Whatever happens, Showtime is betting it will be worth it. After all, Mayweather's nine PPV events at HBO garnered $543 million in revenue, and that was without a platform like CBS to promote.

As for you, HBO, hey, chin up. Plenty of fish in the sea. As the old formula goes: It takes half the length of the relationship to get over it. By 2022 you'll have forgotten all about this. ■

TAKING A HIKE

By: **Brian Harty**

While **Floyd Mayweather** left HBO for a better offer, **Manny Pacquiao** took it to another level and threatened to leave the United States. Pacquiao said that recent income tax hikes for top-earners (from 35 to 39.6 percent) had made the idea of outsourcing himself appealing and that Hong Kong's casino-fed neighbor, Macau, with its paltry 12 percent tax, would be a much less oppressive location for his next fight, which was originally planned for April. Recent Sinophile **Bob Arum** worried that the move might mean as much as 50 percent fewer pay-per-view buys, according to Yahoo! Sports. But then again, China has 1.37 billion people and the entire U.S. population can fit to the right of that decimal point. Might the opportunity outweigh the loss of short-term earnings? Pacquiao's manager, **Michael Koncz**, got more to the point: "We feel the real growth potential for Manny ... is going to be in Asia," he said. It won't happen in April, though, because the arena Arum wanted in Macau had already been booked by a Korean pop star. ...

Following his one-sided loss to **Carlos Molina**, former junior middleweight and unified welterweight titleholder **Cory Spinks** called it a day. Born into the boxing tradition of father Leon and uncle Michael, Spinks' career peaked in a rivalry with **Zab Judah** in 2004-05. He finished at 39-8 (11 knockouts). ...

Michael Katsidis (28-6, 23 KOs), the Australian slugger known for his gladiator mindset in battles against many of the world's top lightweights, also announced his retirement following an unfavorable medical review. ...

Others throwing in the towel were Argentine former junior lightweight titleholder **Jorge Barrios** (50-4-1, 35 KOs) and Japanese lightweight **Takehiro Shimada** (27-6-1, 17 KOs). ...

Image: Victor Decolongon-Getty

Manny Pacquiao might take his talents to a country in which he won't lose as much in taxes as he does in the U.S.

In Jakarta, Indonesia, 17-year-old junior flyweight **Tubagus Sakti** died following an eigth-round TKO loss to **Ichal Tobida** (9-10, 7 KOs). The referee stepped in when Sakti backed into a corner and raised his hands, but Tobida continued to punch and landed three more clean head shots. Sakti collapsed soon afterward and was taken to a hospital, where the cause of death was determined to be a cerebral hemorrhage. His final pro record was 2-3-2 (1 KO). ...

The **United States Anti Doping Agency** (USADA) handed down a two-year suspension to **Erik Morales** for his clenbuterol-positive drug tests leading up to the rematch with **Danny Garcia** in October. Morales basically shrugged it off, saying he didn't plan to fight in the U.S. again anyway, and if he did, USADA had no authority to stop him. ...

Lamont Peterson announced that in future fights, he'll ask for the services of **VADA** (the 'V' stands for "voluntary") over USADA. The statement was doubly remarkable because not only is VADA the organization that popped Peterson for synthetic testosterone in 2011, but also because he said it shortly after signing with **Golden Boy Promotions**, which has not had many kind words for VADA in the past. ■

BY HEATHER SHANHOLTZ

ELLE NAVARRO

Image: **Dave Alan**

HEIGHT: 5-foot-3
WEIGHT: 105 pounds
MEASUREMENTS: 34-24-34
STANCE: Orthodox
FAVORITE BOXER: Manny Pacquiao
HOMETOWN: Oxnard, Calif.
CURRENT LOCATION: Los Angeles
WHERE YOU'VE SEEN HER: instagram/twitter/facebook: @ElleNavarro, Corona girl for Golden Boy Boxing events, *Lowrider, American Curves, Maxim, Show, Super Street* magazine, Spocom Auto Show Spokesmodel
BOOKING INFO: bookellenavarro@gmail.com

Image: Dave Alan

ELLE NAVARRO

Image: **Dave Alan**

THE RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH BY: **HEATHER SHANHOLTZ**

WWW.HEATHERSHANHOLTZ.COM | WWW.TWITTER.COM/HSHANHOLTZ | WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MODELHEATHER

DO YOU WANT TO BE A RING CARD GIRL OF THE MONTH?

submit photos and bio to **ringcardgirl@sepublications.com**

Image: Al Bello-Getty

Adrien Broner (right) overwhelmed Gavin Rees in another impressive performance.

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH

ADRIEN BRONER

By: **Michael Rosenthal**

The choice of Adrien Broner as Fighter of the Month was not a slam dunk. After all, opponent Gavin Rees reportedly was as much as an 80-1 underdog. Broner was expected to dominate, which is what ultimately happened.

Still, we must step back and look at the facts: Rees is no boxing whiz but he's a very good fighter who was rated No. 6 going into the fight. The fact Broner ate him alive after a few competitive rounds says a lot about the fast-rising star, who won by knockout with one second remaining in the fifth round to retain his WBC lightweight title.

Broner has now stopped 16 of his last 17 opponents.

The fact is very few fighters could even hope to cope with Broner's combination of ability, speed and power, particularly in his current weight class. Miguel Vazquez? Ricky Burns? Richard Abril? Sharif Bogere? Good fighters all but, if appearances are accurate, not quite in Broner's league in terms of both ability and star power.

Thus, he probably will soon move up to junior welterweight and show us what he really has. Can he beat the likes of Danny Garcia, Lucas Matthysse, Amir Khan, Zab Judah, Juan Manuel Marquez and Brandon Rios? Rees would probably say yes.

Sam Soliman (right) scored a stunning upset over Felix Sturm in Sturm's home country of Germany.
Image: Dennis Grombkowski-Bongarts-Getty

POUND FOR POUND: No change.

HEAVYWEIGHTS: Denis Boytsov (No. 8 last month) ended his 10-month hiatus with an unremarkable eight-round decision over an unremarkable opponent, Samir Kurtagic. He switched places with Ruslan Chagaev (No. 9 last month) as a result.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: No change.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: No change.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Felix Sturm (No. 2 last month) lost a unanimous decision to unrated Australian Sam Soliman, in Sturm's home country of Germany no less. Based on that plus a previous loss to No. 1 Daniel Geale and some other squeaky-thin escapes, the Sturminator was kicked down to No. 8 and Soliman entered the ratings at No. 10.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No change.

WELTERWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Undefeated Canadian Dierry Jean stopped Juan Jesus Rivera in two rounds, which by itself probably wouldn't have gotten him rated, but his recent activity has been good while No. 9 Cesar Cuenca's hasn't. Cuenca was dropped from the list, which elevated Ruslan Provodnikov (No. 10 last month) and made room for Jean at the bottom.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: No change.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Juan Manuel Lopez (No. 6 last month) left the division for heavier pastures, debuting at 130 pounds with a ninth-round TKO of Aldimar Silva Santos. Everyone from Celestino Caballero (No. 7 last month) down to Javier Fortuna (No. 10 last month) moved up to seal the gap, while once-defeated Thai fighter Chonlatarn Piriyapinyo completed the list at No. 10.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: There was a bit of a shuffle at 122 pounds after unrated Colombian Jonathan Romero won the vacant IBF title with a split decision over Alejandro Lopez in Lopez's hometown of Tijuana, Mexico. Romero took the No. 10 spot from Victor Terrazas, while essentially untested prospect Tomoki Kameda (No. 6 last month) was dropped to No. 9. Scott Quigg (No. 8 last month) leaped two spots to No. 6, past Vic Darchinyan and Hozumi Hasegawa.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No change.

FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No change.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No change.

Sakio Bika (left) had little trouble with Nikola Sjekloca on Feb. 16, allowing him to maintain his spot in the super middleweight Top 10.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

SCAN THIS QR CODE FOR UPDATED RATINGS AT RINGTV.COM.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C	**WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs)
1.	**VITALI KLITSCHKO**	Ukraine | 45-2-0 (41 KOs)
2.	**ALEXANDER POVETKIN**	Russia | 25-0-0 (17 KOs)
3.	**DAVID HAYE**	UK | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**KUBRAT PULEV**	Bulgaria | 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
5.	**TOMASZ ADAMEK**	Poland | 48-2-0 (29 KOs)
6.	**ROBERT HELENIUS**	Finland | 18-0-0 (11 KOs)
7.	**RUSLAN CHAGAEV**	Uzbekistan | 30-2-1 (19 KOs)
8.	**DENIS BOYTSOV**	Russia | 32-0-0 (25 KOs)
9.	**CHRIS ARREOLA**	U.S. | 35-2-0 (30 KOs)
10.	**TYSON FURY**	U.K. | 20-0-0 (14 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 LBS

C	**YOAN PABLO HERNANDEZ**	Cuba | 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
1.	**MARCO HUCK**	Germany | 35-2-1 (25 KOs)
2.	**KRZYSZTOF WLODARCZYK**	Poland | 47-2-1 (33 KOs)
3.	**OLA AFOLABI**	U.K. | 19-2-4 (9 KOs)
4.	**DENIS LEBEDEV**	Russia | 25-1-0 (19 KOs)
5.	**LATEEF KAYODE**	Nigeria | 18-0-0 (14 KOs)
6.	**MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**	Poland | 29-0-0 (21 KOs)
7.	**TROY ROSS**	Canada | 25-3-0 (16 KOs)
8.	**FIRAT ARSLAN**	Germany | 32-6-2 (21 KOs)
9.	**DMYTRO KUCHER**	Ukraine | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
10.	**RAKHIM CHAKHKIEV**	Russia | 116-0-0 (12 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 LBS

C	**CHAD DAWSON**	U.S. | 31-2-0 (17 KOs)
1.	**BERNARD HOPKINS**	U.S. | 52-6-2 (32 KOs)
2.	**TAVORIS CLOUD**	U.S. | 24-0-0 (19 KOs)
3.	**NATHAN CLEVERLY**	U.K. | 25-0-0 (12 KOs)
4.	**BEIBUT SHUMENOV**	Kazakhstan | 13-1-0 (8 KOs)
5.	**SERGEI KOVALEV**	Russia | 20-0-1 (18 KOs)
6.	**KARO MURAT**	Germany | 25-1-1 (15 KOs)
7.	**ISAAC CHILEMBA**	Malawi | 19-1-1 (9 KOs)
8.	**JUERGEN BRAEHMER**	Germany | 38-2-0 (30 KOs)
9.	**GABRIEL CAMPILLO**	Spain | 21-5-1 (8 KOs)
10.	**TONY BELLEW**	U.K. | 19-1-0 (12 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 LBS

C	**ANDRE WARD**	U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
1.	**CARL FROCH**	U.K. | 30-2-0 (22 KOs)
2.	**MIKKEL KESSLER**	Denmark | 46-2-0 (35 KOs)
3.	**LUCIAN BUTE**	Romania | 31-1-0 (24 KOs)
4.	**THOMAS OOSTHUIZEN**	South Africa | 21-0-1 (13 KOs)
5.	**ARTHUR ABRAHAM**	Armenia | 36-3-0 (28 KOs)
6.	**ROBERT STIEGLITZ**	Russia | 43-3-0 (24 KOs)
7.	**GEORGE GROVES**	U.K. | 16-0-0 (12 KOs)
8.	**SAKIO BIKA**	Camaroon | 31-5-2 (21 KOs)
9.	**ADONIS STEVENSON**	Canada | 19-1-0 (16 KOs)
10.	**EDWIN RODRIGUEZ**	Dominican Rep. | 22-0-0 (15 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 LBS

C	**SERGIO MARTINEZ** Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs)
1.	**DANIEL GEALE** Australia | 28-1-0 (15 KOs)
2.	**GENNADY GOLOVKIN** Kazakhstan | 25-0-0 (22 KOs)
3.	**JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR.** Mexico | 46-1-1 (32 KOs)
4.	**DMITRY PIROG** Russia | 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
5.	**MATTHEW MACKLIN** U.K. | 29-4-0 (20 KOs)
6.	**PETER QUILLIN** U.S. | 28-0-0 (20 KOs)
7.	**MARTIN MURRAY** U.K. | 25-0-1 (11 KOs)
8.	**FELIX STURM** Germany | 37-4-2 (16 KOs)
9.	**HASSAN N'DAM** France | 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
10.	**SAM SOLIMAN** Australia | 43-11-0 (17 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 LBS

C	**VACANT**
1.	**FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2.	**SAUL ALVAREZ** Mexico | 41-0-1 (30 KOs)
3.	**AUSTIN TROUT** U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs)
4.	**MIGUEL COTTO** Puerto Rico | 37-4-0 (30 KOs)
5.	**ERISLANDY LARA** Cuba | 17-1-2 (11 KOs)
6.	**VANES MARTIROSYAN** U.S. | 32-0-1 (20 KOs)
7.	**CARLOS MOLINA** Mexico | 21-5-2 (6 KOs)
8.	**JAMES KIRKLAND** U.S. | 31-1-0 (27 KOs)
9.	**CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE** U.S. | 32-4-0 (19 KOs)
10.	**ZAURBEK BAYSANGUROV** Russia | 28-1-0 (20 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 LBS

C	**VACANT**
1.	**FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.** U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs)
2.	**JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
3.	**ROBERT GUERRERO** U.S. | 31-1-1 (18 KOs)
4.	**MANNY PACQUIAO** Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs)
5.	**KELL BROOK** UK | 29-0-0 (19 KOs)
6.	**PAULIE MALIGNAGGI** U.S. | 32-4-0 (7 KOs)
7.	**JAN ZAVECK** Slovenia | 32-2-0 (18 KOs)
8.	**TIMOTHY BRADLEY** U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs)
9.	**VICTOR ORTIZ** U.S. | 29-4-2 (22 KOs)
10.	**DEVON ALEXANDER** U.S. | 24-1-0 (13 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 LBS

C	**DANNY GARCIA** U.S. | 25-0-0 (16 KOs)
1.	**LUCAS MATTHYSSE** Argentina | 33-2-0 (31 KOs)
2.	**AMIR KHAN** UK | 27-3-0 (19 KOs)
3.	**ZAB JUDAH** U.S. | 42-7-0 (29 KOs)
4.	**JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ** Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs)
5.	**BRANDON RIOS** U.S. | 31-0-1 (23 KOs)
6.	**KHABIB ALLAKHVERDIEV** Russia | 18-0-0 (8 KOs)
7.	**MIKE ALVARADO** U.S. | 33-1-0 (23 KOs)
8.	**DENIS SHAFIKOV** Russia | 31-0-1 (17 KOs)
9.	**RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV** Russia | 22-1-0 (15 KOs)
10.	**DIERRY JEAN** Canada | 24-0-0 (16 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 LBS

C	**VACANT**
1.	**ADRIEN BRONER** U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs)
2.	**MIGUEL VAZQUEZ** Mexico | 33-3-0 (13 KOs)
3.	**ANTONIO DEMARCO** Mexico | 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
4.	**RICKY BURNS** U.K. | 35-2-0 (10 KOs)
5.	**RICHARD ABRIL** Cuba | 17-3-1 (8 KOs)
6.	**GAVIN REES** U.K. | 37-2-1 (18 KOs)
7.	**SHARIF BOGERE** Uganda | 23-0-0 (15 KOs)
8.	**KEVIN MITCHELL** U.K. | 33-2-0 (24 KOs)
9.	**RAYMUNDO BELTRAN** Mexico | 27-6-0 (17 KOs)
10.	**DANIEL ESTRADA** Mexico | 30-2-1 (22 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 LBS

C	**VACANT**
1.	**TAKASHI UCHIYAMA** Japan | 19-0-1 (16 KOs)
2.	**JUAN CARLOS SALGADO** Mexico | 26-1-1 (16 KOs)
3.	**YURIORKIS GAMBOA** Cuba | 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
4.	**ROMAN MARTINEZ** Puerto Rico | 26-1-2 (16 KOs)
5.	**JUAN CARLOS BURGOS** Mexico | 30-1-1 (20 KOs)
6.	**DIEGO MAGDALENO** U.S. | 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
7.	**ARGENIS MENDEZ** Dom. Rep. | 20-2-0 (10 KOs)
8.	**GAMALIEL DIAZ** Mexico | 37-9-2 (17 KOs)
9.	**TAKAHIRO AO** Japan | 23-3-1 (10 KOs)
10.	**SERGIO THOMPSON** Mexico | 26-2-0 (24 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 LBS

C	**MIKEY GARCIA** U.S. | 31-0-0 (26 KOs)
1.	**CHRIS JOHN** Indonesia | 48-0-2 (22 KOs)
2.	**DANIEL PONCE DE LEON** Mexico | 44-4-0 (35 KOs)
3.	**ORLANDO SALIDO** Mexico | 39-12-2 (27 KOs)
4.	**BILLY DIB** Australia | 35-1-0 (21 KOs)
5.	**JHONNY GONZALEZ** Mexico | 52-8-0 (45 KOs)
6.	**CELESTINO CABALLERO** Panama | 36-4-0 (23 KOs)
7.	**DAUD YORDAN** Indonesia | 30-2-0 (23 KOs)
8.	**NICHOLAS WALTERS** Jamaica | 22-0-0 (18 KOs)
9.	**JAVIER FORTUNA** Dom. Rep. | 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
10.	**CHONLATARN PIRIYAPINYO** Thailand | 45-1-0 (28 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 LBS

C	**NONITO DONAIRE** Philippines | 31-1-0 (20 KOs)
1.	**GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX** Cuba | 11-0-0 (8 KOs)
2.	**ABNER MARES** Mexico | 25-0-1 (13 KOs)
3.	**JEFFREY MATHEBULA** South Africa | 26-4-2 (14 KOs)
4.	**ALEXANDER BAKHTIN** Russia | 30-0-0 (11 KOs)
5.	**CARL FRAMPTON** U.K. | 16-0-0 (11 KOs)
6.	**SCOTT QUIGG** U.K. | 25-0-1 (18 KOs)
7.	**VIC DARCHINYAN** Armenia | 38-5-1 (27 KOs)
8.	**HOZUMI HASEGAWA** Japan | 31-4-0 (13 KOs)
9.	**TOMOKI KAMEDA** Japan | 26-0-0 (17 KOs)
10.	**JONATHAN ROMERO** Colombia | 23-0-0 (12 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. THE RING's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another; 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders chose not to fight one another and either of them fights No. 3, No. 4 or No. 5, the winner may be awarded THE RING belt if the Editorial Board deems the contenders worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

THE RING Ratings Chairman Chuck Giampa considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world but has final say on all changes. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

Records provided by boxrec.com

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ANSELMO MORENO**
   Panama | 33-2-1 (12 KOs)
2. **SHINSUKE YAMANAKA**
   Japan | 23-0-1 (13 KOs)
3. **LEO SANTA CRUZ**
   Mexico | 23-0-1 (13 KOs)
4. **KOKI KAMEDA**
   Japan | 29-1-0 (17 KOs)
5. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines | 32-2-3 (20 KOs)
6. **HUGO RUIZ**
   Mexico | 31-2-0 (28 KOs)
7. **PUNGLUANG SOR SINGYU**
   Thailand | 43-1-0 (28 KOs)
8. **JULIO CEJA**
   Mexico | 24-0-0 (22 KOs)
9. **RYOSUKE IWASA**
   Japan | 13-1-0 (9 KOs)
10. **JAMIE MCDONNELL**
    U.K. | 20-2-1 (9 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina | 38-1-2 (20 KOs)
2. **YOTA SATO**
   Japan | 26-2-1 (12 KOs)
3. **SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI**
   Thailand | 24-5-1 (9 KOs)
4. **JUAN CARLOS SANCHEZ JR.**
   Mexico | 15-1-1 (8 KOs)
5. **CARLOS CUADRAS**
   Mexico | 27-0-0 (22 KOs)
6. **KOHEI KONO**
   Japan | 28-7-0 (11 KOs)
7. **TEPPARITH SINGWANCHA**
   Thailand | 21-3-0 (13 KOs)
8. **RYO AKAHO**
   Japan | 19-1-2 (12 KOs)
9. **RODEL MAYOL**
   Philippines | 31-6-2 (22 KOs)
10. **OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI**
    Thailand | 46-1-1 (16 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 LBS

C **TOSHIYUKI IGARASHI**
Japan | 17-1-1 (10 KOs)

1. **BRIAN VILORIA**
   U.S. | 32-3-0 (19 KOs)
2. **HERNAN MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 34-3-0 (25 KOs)
3. **MORUTI MTHALANE**
   S. Africa | 29-2-0 (20 KOs)
4. **SONNY BOY JARO**
   Philippines | 34-11-5 (24 KOs)
5. **MILAN MELINDO**
   Philippines | 28-0-0 (11 KOs)
6. **ROCKY FUENTES**
   Philippines | 35-6-2 (20 KOs)
7. **JUAN CARLOS REVECO**
   Argentina | 29-1-0 (16 KOs)
8. **EDGAR SOSA**
   Mexico | 47-7-0 (28 KOs)
9. **LUIS CONCEPCION**
   Panama | 27-3-0 (20 KOs)
10. **FROILAN SALUDAR**
    Philippines | 16-0-1 (11 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
   Nicaragua | 34-0-0 (28 KOs)
2. **DONNIE NIETES**
   Philippines | 31-1-3 (17 KOs)
3. **ADRIAN HERNANDEZ**
   Mexico | 26-2-1 (16 KOs)
4. **ULISES SOLIS**
   Mexico | 35-2-3 (22 KOs)
5. **KAZUTO IOKA**
   Japan | 11-0-0 (7 KOs)
6. **MASAYUKI KURODA**
   Japan | 21-3-2 (13 KOs)
7. **KOMPAYAK PORPRAMOOK**
   Thailand | 49-4-0 (34 KOs)
8. **JOHNRIEL CASIMERO**
   Philippines | 17-2-0 (10 KOs)
9. **RYOICHI TAGUCHI**
   Japan | 17-1-1 (8 KOs)
10. **ALBERTO ROSSEL**
    Peru | 29-8-0 (13 KOs)

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 LBS

C **VACANT**

1. **MOISES FUENTES**
   Mexico | 16-1-0 (8 KOs)
2. **RAUL GARCIA**
   Mexico | 33-2-1 (21 KOs)
3. **DENVER CUELLO**
   Philippines | 32-4-6 (21 KOs)
4. **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
   Thailand | 26-0-0 (8 KOs)
5. **MARIO RODRIGUEZ**
   Mexico | 15-6-4 (11 KOs)
6. **NKOSINATHI JOYI**
   South Africa | 23-1-0 (16 KOs)
7. **AKIRA YAEGASHI**
   Japan | 16-3-0 (9 KOs)
8. **RYO MIYAZAKI**
   Japan | 18-0-3 (10 KOs)
9. **HEKKIE BUDLER**
   South Africa | 22-1-0 (6 KOs)
10. **CARLOS BUITRAGO**
    Nicaragua | 24-0-0 (15 KOs)

POUND FOR POUND

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.**
   U.S. | 43-0-0 (26 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT/ JR. MIDDLEWEIGHT
2. **ANDRE WARD**
   U.S. | 26-0-0 (14 KOs) | SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
3. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico | 55-6-1 (40 KOs) | JR. WELTERWEIGHT/ WELTERWEIGHT
4. **SERGIO MARTINEZ**
   Argentina | 50-2-2 (28 KOs) | MIDDLEWEIGHT
5. **NONITO DONAIRE**
   Philippines | 31-1-0 (20 KOs) | JR. FEATHERWEIGHT
6. **ADRIEN BRONER**
   U.S. | 26-0-0 (22 KOs) | LIGHTWEIGHT
7. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines | 54-5-2 (38 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
8. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
   Ukraine | 59-3-0 (50 KOs) | HEAVYWEIGHT
9. **TIMOTHY BRADLEY**
   U.S. | 29-0-0 (12 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT
10. **ROBERT GUERRERO**
    U.S. | 31-1-1 (18 KOs) | WELTERWEIGHT

Image: Naoki Fukuda

THE RING POLICY ON RATED BOXERS WHO TEST POSITIVE FOR PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS

THE RING will remove from its ratings any rated boxer — including a champion — if such boxer at some point undergoes drug testing (Olympic-style or otherwise) and that boxer tests positive for a performance-enhancing drug.

In the event that a boxer has undergone testing in which the boxer provides two samples ("A" and "B") and the boxer's "A" and subsequent "B" samples test positive for a performance-enhancing drug or if his "A" sample tests positive and he waives his right to have the "B" sample tested then the boxer shall immediately be removed from the ratings.

A boxer whose "A" sample tested positive and is awaiting the results of his "B" sample will not be allowed to fight for a championship or rise in the ratings.

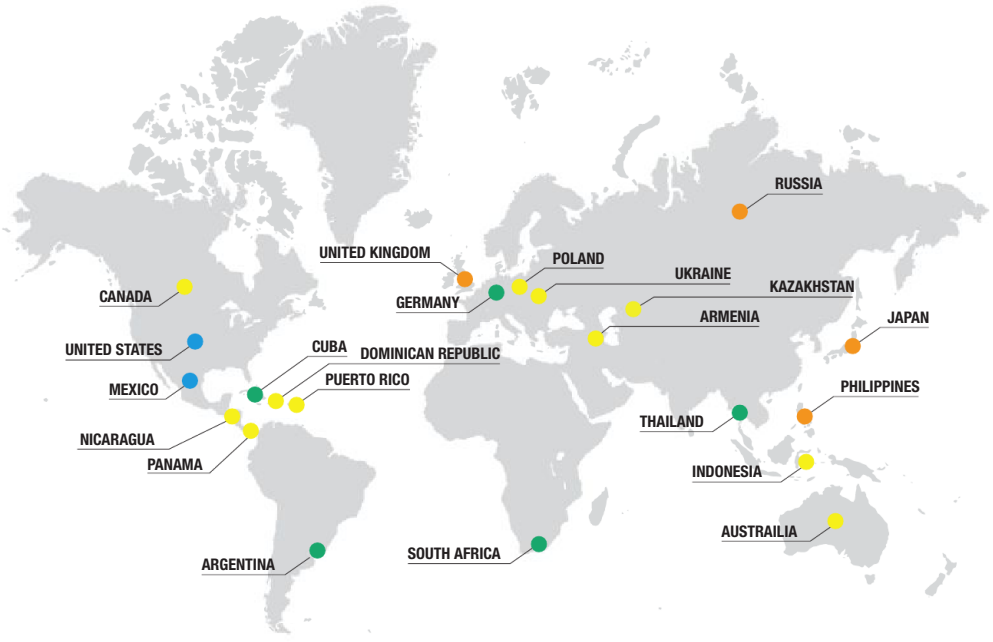
A boxer who is removed because of a positive test will have the opportunity to earn his way back into the ratings after any suspension period is completed.

A boxer who is dropped also may be reinstated if the testing agency subsequently reverses its decision or a court of competent jurisdiction finds that the test result was invalid.

RATED FIGHTERS BY COUNTRY

MEXICO	29*
UNITED STATES	25*
UNITED KINGDOM	17
JAPAN	16
RUSSIA	12
PHILIPPINES	11
THAILAND	7
CUBA	5
GERMANY	5
SOUTH AFRICA	5
ARGENTINA	4
AUSTRALIA	3
CANADA	3
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	3
PANAMA	3
POLAND	3
UKRAINE	3
ARMENIA	2
INDONESIA	2
KAZAKHSTAN	2
NICARAGUA	2
PUERTO RICO	2
BULGARIA	1
CAMEROON	1
COLOMBIA	1
DENMARK	1
FINLAND	1
FRANCE	1
JAMAICA	1
MALAWI	1
NIGERIA	1
PERU	1
ROMANIA	1
SLOVENIA	1
SPAIN	1
UGANDA	1
UZBEKISTAN	1

**Includes two ratings for Floyd Mayweather Jr. (junior middleweight, welterweight) and Juan Manuel Marquez (welterweight and junior welterweight).*



JAPAN VS. ASIAN RIVALS

The Japanese have long been the dominant force in Asian boxing, as the current RING Ratings bear out. However, fighters from the Philippines and Thailand also have made their marks. Here is a division-by-division comparison of rated fighters from the three Asian rivals.

DIVISION	JAPAN	PHIL.	THAI.
HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0	0
CRUISERWEIGHTS	0	0	0
LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS	0	0	0
SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0	0
MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0	0
JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS	0	0	0
WELTERWEIGHTS	0	1	0
JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS	0	0	0
LIGHTWEIGHTS	0	0	0
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS	2	0	0
FEATHERWEIGHTS	0	0	1
JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS	2	1	0
BANTAMWEIGHTS	3	1	1
JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS	3	1	3
FLYWEIGHTS	1	4	0
JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS	3	2	1
STRAWWEIGHTS	2	1	1
TOTALS	**16**	**11**	**7**

BOXER FACTORIES

Where do the best American boxers come from? These states have produced the 24 U.S. fighters rated by THE RING, ranked by number of fighters. The states of boxers who have spent time in more than one area were determined primarily by where they were raised. Note: Floyd Mayweather Jr. is rated in two divisions.

- 6 **CALIFORNIA** (CHRIS ARREOLA, ANDRE WARD, VANES MARTIROSYAN, ROBERT GUERRERO, TIMOTHY BRADLEY AND MIKEY GARCIA)
- 3 **NEW YORK** (PETER QUILLIN, PAULIE MALIGNAGGI AND ZAB JUDAH)
- 2 **KANSAS** (BRANDON RIOS AND VICTOR ORTIZ)
- 2 **MICHIGAN** (FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR. AND CORNELIUS BUNDRAGE)
- 2 **PENNSYLVANIA** (BERNARD HOPKINS, DANNY GARCIA)
- 1 **COLORADO** (MIKE ALVARADO)
- 1 **CONNECTICUT** (CHAD DAWSON)
- 1 **FLORIDA** (TAVORIS CLOUD)
- 1 **HAWAII** (BRIAN VILORIA)
- 1 **MISSOURI** (DEVON ALEXANDER)
- 1 **NEVADA** (DIEGO MAGDALENO)
- 1 **NEW MEXICO** (AUSTIN TROUT)
- 1 **OHIO** (ADRIEN BRONER)
- 1 **TEXAS** (JAMES KIRKLAND)

***NOTE:** The country of fighters who have spent large portions of their lives in two countries was determined primarily by where they spent the bulk of their childhood.*

OLD SCHOOL 8

THE RING staff members' current champions in the original eight weight classes. Our guest this month is Bob Velin, boxing writer with *USA Today.*

MICHAEL ROSENTHAL RING MAGAZINE EDITOR

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

DOUG FISCHER RINGTV.COM EDITOR

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

LEM SATTERFIELD STAFF WRITER

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SERGIO MARTINEZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** ANSELMO MORENO
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

BOB VELIN BOXING WRITER

- **HEAVYWEIGHT:** WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
- **LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT:** ANDRE WARD
- **MIDDLEWEIGHT:** SAUL ALVAREZ
- **WELTERWEIGHT:** FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.
- **LIGHTWEIGHT:** ADRIEN BRONER
- **FEATHERWEIGHT:** NONITO DONAIRE
- **BANTAMWEIGHT:** LEO SANTA CRUZ
- **FLYWEIGHT:** BRIAN VILORIA

Note: *This is how the weights break down: Heavyweight includes cruiserweight, light heavyweight includes super middleweight, all divisions middleweight through flyweight include the "junior" versions, and flyweight also includes strawweight.*

Image: Stuart Franklin-Bongarts-Getty

Anselmo Moreno failed to take Abner Mares' junior featherweight title but remains the WBA bantamweight beltholder.

ANDRE WARD BOXING CHAMPION
EVERLAST HAS BEEN A PROUD
SUPPORTER OF BCRF SINCE 2006

EVERLAST

The Breast Cancer Research Foundation

UNLEASH YOURS
AT EVERLAST.COM

UNLEASH CHANGE

©2012 EVERLAST WORLDWIDE. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

Oscar De La Hoya, who won a gold medal in the 1992 Olympics, remains a symbol of success for Mexican-American boxers.
Image: Mark Duncan-Associated Press

MEXICAN-AMERICAN BOXERS HAVE MADE THEIR MARKS FOR MORE THAN A CENTURY AND SHOW NO SIGNS OF SLOWING DOWN

'IT'S OUR HERITAGE'

By: **Don Stradley**

The recent crowning of Mikey Garcia as featherweight champion was the latest chapter of a story reaching back to Oct. 4, 1897. That day saw Solomon Garcia "Solly" Smith, a California fighter of Mexican descent, capture the featherweight championship by defeating the great Canadian George Dixon over 20 rounds in San Francisco. Smith was the first Mexican-American champion; Garcia, the most recent. In between, Mexican-Americans have proven to be one of the most enduring cultural groups in boxing.

When asked about the relationship between Mexican-Americans and the sport, welterweight star Robert Guerrero spoke as if describing an old romance that was impossible to forget yet difficult to explain. It was obvious, he said, that Mexican-Americans belong in boxing. "It's in our DNA," he said. He talked about the roots, the colorful history, but what he described went beyond mere passion; it sounded like a birthright. "It's our heritage," he said, as if no further clarification was needed.

Along with Garcia and Guerrero, today's Mexican-American fighters include Brandon Rios, Mike Alvarado, Leo Santa Cruz, Mauricio Herrera, Chris Arreola, Jessie Vargas, Victor Ortiz, John Molina Jr., Diego and Jesse Magdaleno, Brian Vera, Sergio Mora, Raul Martinez, B.J. Flores, Carlos Molina, José Benavidez and more. Some of the top female stars are Mexican-American. And the first American woman to win an Olympic medal for boxing was Marlen Esparza, who took home the bronze last summer in London.

Guerrero points to two likely spurs for the current prevalence: Oscar De La Hoya and Michael Carbajal. De La Hoya's success, along with Carbajal popularizing the lighter weight classes, "opened our eyes to the opportunities out there," Guerrero said. "Seeing them come from the Olympics with medals was inspiring."

Mexican-Americans are one of the many ethnic groups in America to use boxing as a way to rise above their surroundings. As former RING Editor Bert Randolph Sugar once wrote, "Many a troubled and troublesome youngster has embraced 'The Sweet Science' as a way out, a social staircase out of the mean streets that formed his limited world, fighting his way, bloody hand over bloody hand, up the ladder of acceptance the only way he knows: with his fists."

Slugger Brandon Rios is one of the best in an exciting crop of Mexican-American fighters.
Image: Harry How-Getty

"I wanted to play baseball," said former WBC welterweight titleholder Carlos Palomino, who came from Mexico to Los Angeles as a child in the late 1950s. "People discouraged me, saying Mexican-Americans never made it. But boxing was always there for us, especially the smaller guys. As an amateur fighter I traveled the world, and I still felt (discrimination). But if you could fight as a professional, you had it made."

Palomino was part of a Mexican-American phalanx of fighters in the 1960s and '70s that included Mando Ramos, Bobby Chacon, Armando Muniz, Danny Lopez, Oscar "Shotgun" Albarado and Raul Rojas, a former

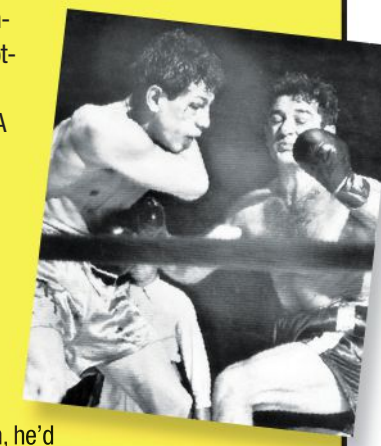
gang member who told the *Los Angeles Times*, "All I ever was, was tough; I figured I should put it to use." These little gladiators rarely fought outside of California, but they didn't need to.

"Mexican-American fighters were the backbone of L.A. boxing for years," said Don Chargin, for decades the matchmaker at the L.A. Olympic Auditorium alongside promoter Aileen Eaton. "The bitterest rivalry was when a Mexican-American would fight someone from Mexico. That's what we were after." Chargin still celebrates the memory of the 1970 bout between Mando Ramos and Sugar Ramos, a Cuban-Mexican. The Olympic was bursting with fans. "Aileen thought they were going to tear the place down. We also had five theaters filled with people watching on closed-circuit TV, and Aileen projected the fight on the side of the building, so the crowd outside could see it. Those were great days; the best years of my life."

Along with being serious bangers, many Mexican-American fighters possessed a photogenic quality, dating back to the 1950s prime of Vince Martinez and Art Aragon. "They had movie-star looks," Chargin said. "Oscar De La Hoya wasn't the first to bring out the female fans."

De La Hoya arrived at a time when Mexican-American fighters were still enjoying the embers of the 1980s boxing boom. Carbajal was earning historic paydays for a 108-pounder, Tony Lopez had engaged in several memorable fights and Orlando Canizales was enjoying an epic reign as the IBF bantamweight titleholder. Then, another new wave of Mexican-American fighters was upon us, what Guerrero called "the big splash."

SPOTLIGHT ON: ART ARAGON



"Golden Boy" Art Aragon never won a championship but was always money in the bank for promoters.

"He was such a character," said Don Chargin. "A heck of a puncher. He made a mistake when he knocked out Enrique Bolanos, the favorite son of Mexicans, both here and in Mexico. When Aragon (pictured on the left fighting Vince Martinez) knocked him out, the fans turned on him. From then on, they booed him something terrible. He didn't care, he was all business. But he liked to irritate people. For instance, Aragon could speak Spanish, but when a Mexican fan approached him, he'd pretend he couldn't understand, just to aggravate them. That was Aragon."

Aragon was married four times, including once to 1950s Hollywood bombshell Mamie Van Doren. He acted in some movies. He allegedly took part in some fixed fights. He didn't always do the right thing, but he had a good time doing it. He retired in 1960 with a record of 90-20-6 (62 knockouts). People attending Aragon's funeral in 2008 broke into a humorous round of boos, just for old times' sake.

—Don Stradley

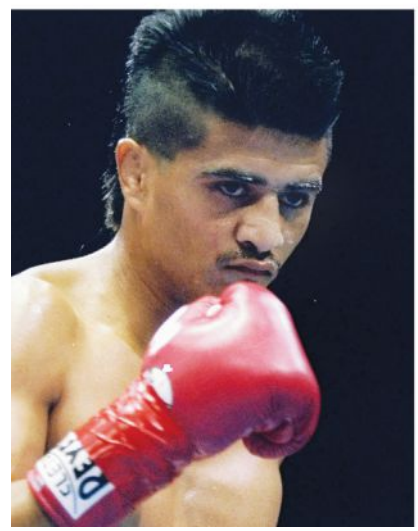


Image: Holly Stein-Getty

Michael Carbajal gave the lighter weight classes an enormous boost with his thrilling style and success.

From Texas and California and New Mexico they came, with names like Leija, Tapia, Romero, Ayala, Hernandez and Vargas. They were solid technical boxers with a profound willingness to punch and be punched. They could project their personalities to the audience. They came with pride, humility, intelligence and humor. They spoke English, which gave them a marketable edge over their sometimes dour Mexican counterparts. When De La Hoya stopped aging Mexican icon Julio Cesar Chavez in four gory rounds in 1996, he earned the WBC junior welterweight title and showed there was still life in the blood rivalry between Mexicans and Mexican-Americans.

"It exists," said Robert Garcia, co-trainer and older brother of Mikey. "Mexicans look at us who don't speak Spanish, and say, 'Look at these white boys.' But it is not as bad as it used to be."

"We've been given more respect in the last 10 or 15 years," added Guerrero. "After proving ourselves for so long, I think we are accepted now with open arms."

One reason Guerrero gives for the continued success of Mexican-American fighters is a subtle change in boxing styles.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Leo Santa Cruz (left, unloading on Victor Zaleta) is just beginning to make his mark.

"It's not just the left hook to the liver anymore," Guerrero said. "It is hard to put a gauge on what we will do. We are not so predictable. I credit the Mexican-American trainers for seeing things that we could add. They knew in order for us to survive, we couldn't rely on the typical Mexican thing of standing in the ring and trading punches."

"Mexican fighters love action," said Garcia, consecutive winner of THE RING Magazine's Trainer of the Year honor. "With Mexican-Americans, you might see more counter punching and defense. There have always been great Mexican-American fighters. But I think they are getting better, fighting smarter."

"We had to adapt," Guerrero said. "Everybody loves to stand toe to toe and bang it out, but now we're jabbing more and throwing combinations; we can change it up."

There are murmurs, though, that the promotion of Mexican-American fighters is becoming too, well, American. Palomino feels they are being sheltered, a common enough feeling from an older generation.

"I lost my first main event," Palomino said with pride. "I had some hard fights, but when my title shot came against John Stracey in London, I was ready. When I won, I remember sitting at a banquet next to two old-time fighters, Mushy Callahan and Jimmy McLarnin. Mushy said to me, 'You're the new champion, eh kid? How many fights have you had?' I said 23. He said, 'Bah, they give title shots to anybody now.' See, every generation thinks they came up harder. But I do think today's Mexican-American fighters are too protected. You can win a title, and still be a flash in the pan."

"The difference now is television," said Chargin, who has served as an advisor for Golden Boy Promotions. "Back then, we had small towns, where a fighter could have 35 fights before

he got on television. You don't have that anymore. The fighters in Mexico do it the old way, starting out as babies and having 30 fights before anyone hears of them. But up here, Mikey Garcia and Leo Santa Cruz are already on TV with only 20 or so fights. They've won titles, but to me, they're prospects."

Santa Cruz is one hell of a prospect, fighting five times in 2012, including a decision win over Vusi Malinga for the vacant IBF bantamweight title and a fifth round stoppage of veteran Eric Morel. Those were his 21st and 22nd bouts, respectively. The days of Bert Colima, a popular Mexican-American fighter who retired in 1933 with 209 bouts, are long over. Mexican-American fighters of today have replaced the tank town circuit with strong amateur careers, gaining experience without being at the mercy of small-time promoters. And if the rush to television seems quick, the rewards are hard to resist.

"There's much more money now," Garcia said, almost in awe of the paychecks brother Mikey has received for his HBO appearances. "I couldn't even imagine that kind of money when I fought. It was unheard of."

"Everything has gotten bigger, not only for Mexican-American fighters, but for trainers, too," Guerrero said. "No doubt, it's a great time. It's also a great time for Mexican-Americans as a people. It is amazing to see us all growing at once."

But when ethnic groups find success in America, they tend to frown on bleeding for a living. Don't they?

"The Irish and the Italians are no longer a big part of boxing," Chargin said. "There are certainly fewer black fighters now.

GREAT PERFORMANCES

A complete list of memorable victories for Mexican-American fighters would fill an entire magazine. Here are 10 that stand out.

RICHIE LEMOS KO 5 PETEY SCALZO
July 1, 1941, Los Angeles
Lemos defeats Scalzo for the NBA featherweight championship, breaking a 54-year drought to become the first Mexican-American titleholder since Solly Smith.

MANDO RAMOS KO 11
CARLOS TEO CRUZ
Feb. 18, 1969, Los Angeles
Ramos, age 20, defeats Cruz to become the youngest lightweight champion in history.

BOBBY CHACON W 15 RAFAEL LIMON (PICTURED ABOVE)
Dec. 11, 1982, Sacramento, Calif.
Chacon wins the WBC junior lightweight title in a rousing bout that was chosen as THE RING's Fight of the Year. Chacon also earned THE RING's Comeback of the Year honors. His first defense, a win over Cornelius Boza Edwards, would be THE RING's Fight of The Year in 1983.

RICHIE SANDOVAL KO 15
JEFF CHANDLER
March 15, 1984, Atlantic City, N.J.
Underdog Sandoval scores a surprising victory over the great Chandler to win the WBA bantamweight title.

STEVE CRUZ W 15 BARRY MCGUIGAN
June 23, 1986, Las Vegas
Cruz scores a major upset, knocking popular McGuigan down twice in the last round to win a 15-round unanimous decision. Cruz wins the WBA featherweight title, and the bout is chosen as THE RING's Fight of the Year.

ORLANDO CANIZALES KO 15 KELVIN SEABROOKS
July 9, 1988, Atlantic City, N.J.
Canizales wins a scorcher and takes the IBF bantamweight title. He would go on to make 16 title defenses.

TONY LOPEZ W 12
ROCKY LOCKRIDGE
July 23, 1988, Sacramento, Calif.
Tony "The Tiger" wins the IBF junior lightweight title in THE RING's Fight of the Year.

MICHAEL CARBAJAL KO 7
HUMBERTO "CHIQUITA" GONZALES
March 13, 1993, Las Vegas
IBF junior flyweight titleholder Carbajal comes off the canvas twice to stop WBC titlist Gonzalez in seven rounds. It is the first bout of a trilogy, unifies two junior flyweight titles and is selected as THE RING's Fight of the Year. This was the same year Carbajal became the first Mexican-American to win THE RING's Fighter of the Year award.

PAULIE AYALA W 12
JOHNNY TAPIA
June 26, 1999, Las Vegas
In a battle of Mexican-Americans, Ayala outpoints Tapia to win the WBA bantamweight title. It is the first of two memorable bouts between the pair, helps Ayala earn THE RING's Fighter of the Year award and is THE RING's Fight of the Year.

DIEGO CORRALES KO 10
JOSE LUIS CASTILLO
May 7, 2005, Las Vegas
Corrales did his Mexican mother proud by stopping Castillo in 10 to win the lightweight championship. The bout is an all-time classic and THE RING's Fight of the Year. Round 10, which saw Corrales dropped twice only to rise and stop Castillo along the ropes, was THE RING's Round of the Year. Corrales' father was from Colombia.

Robert Guerrero's hard-fought victory over Andre Berto and his date with Floyd Mayweather Jr. might make him the top active Mexican-American fighter.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

"Everything has gotten bigger, not only for Mexican-American fighters, but for trainers, too. ... It's also a great time for Mexican-Americans as a people. It is amazing to see us all growing at once."
— Robert Guerrero

But boxing is in the Mexican blood, you know? Also, there are not many sports where smaller kids can excel, and most of the Mexican-American kids are in the lighter divisions. They aren't going to leave boxing to play for the New York Knicks." As Guerrero put it, perhaps referring to the massive immigration from Mexico to the U.S. in recent years, "There may be even more of us in the future."

Still, Palomino senses "a change in the barrio," with Mexican-American families steering their sons away from boxing and into soccer. The future, Palomino guesses, may see more fighters straddle the line between the two countries, such as Abner Mares, who has conducted his entire pro career in the U.S. but doesn't consider himself "Mexican-American" and represented Mexico at the 2004 Olympics. Garcia, meanwhile, believes Mexican-American boys will always be lured into boxing for various reasons.

"Soccer is popular, but boxing pays better," Garcia said. "It's difficult to have a career in professional soccer; those players come from universities. You need a little money to get there."

Garcia also proposes that Mexicans love boxing in a way that perhaps other ethnic groups in America didn't. Everyone enjoys a good scrap, Garcia feels, but in Mexico boxing takes on an almost sacred atmosphere. "Mexican-American kids are always going to know about the tradition, because we are so close to Mexico," Garcia said. "It is a beautiful thing we have, Mexicans in two countries. But Mexico has a lot of poverty, and that's where fighters come from."

It is bittersweet, this notion that We will always be poor, so

we will always fight, for boxing is no safeguard against hardship. For every Juan Diaz who leaves boxing to become a lawyer, there are many sad tales: Chacon's life has been tragic, and Johnny Tapia could never tame his demons; Ramos struggled with drugs and alcohol, as did De La Hoya; Tony Ayala Jr. couldn't stay out of trouble; Alberto Davila suffered the horror of killing an opponent, Kiko Bejines; and Richie Sandoval was nearly killed in a bout with fellow Mexican-American Gaby Canizales. "Corky" Gonzales, a fine featherweight of the 1950s who became a leader in the Chicano movement, described the stark truth of boxing in his ambitious 1967 poem, "I Am Joaquin":

I bleed as the vicious gloves of hunger
cut my face and eyes,
as I fight my way from stinking barrios
to the glamour of the ring
and lights of fame
or mutilated sorrow.

Such a severe outlook may feel overdramatic in 2013, especially when Mexican-American fighters are making more money, earning acceptance from Mexican fans and appearing on TV. Jose Ramirez, the amateur sensation who just turned pro, recently signed a major endorsement deal with Nike. The exact details weren't reported, but Ramirez, with one pro bout to his credit, is probably collecting more money for modeling footwear than Solly Smith ever saw in his dreams.

"That's why I encourage my guys to fight smart," Garcia said. "They have great opportunities now, so I want them to last." ■

SPOTLIGHT ON: MANUEL ORTIZ

It's difficult to pick the greatest Mexican-American fighter of them all, but one could make a strong case for Manuel Ortiz of Corona, Calif. At age 20, with no experience, Ortiz was plucked out of an audience to fill in for a missing fighter at an amateur show. Ortiz won and decided to pursue the sport full-time. On Aug. 7, 1942, he won recognition as the bantamweight champion by beating Lou Salica over 12 rounds.

Ortiz made 20 title defenses spread out over two reigns, and had time for numerous non-title bouts, including a jump to featherweight to face legendary champion Willie Pep. Ortiz failed against Pep, but that was his only loss in a 46-fight stretch from 1941 to 1946. Ortiz made eight title defenses in 1943, a single-year record that is not likely to be broken.

By the time of his retirement in 1955, Ortiz had posted a record of 100-28-3 (54 knockouts). He died in 1970 and was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 1996. He is one of the few Mexican-Americans enshrined in Canastota, N.Y.

—Don Stradley

Marlen Esparza, an Olympic bronze medalist, proved that the Mexican-American tradition doesn't end with the men.
Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

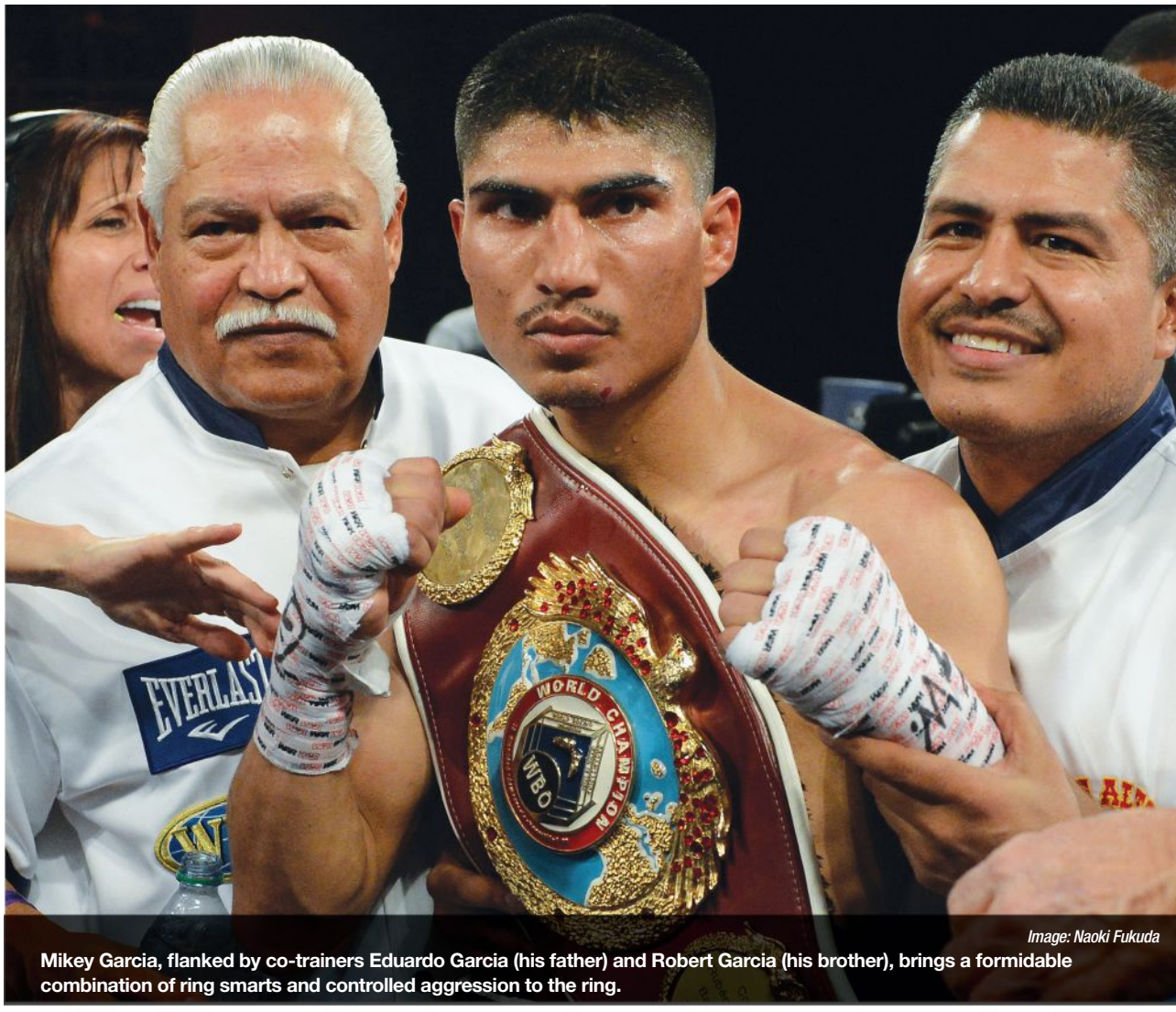


Image: Naoki Fukuda

Mikey Garcia, flanked by co-trainers Eduardo Garcia (his father) and Robert Garcia (his brother), brings a formidable combination of ring smarts and controlled aggression to the ring.

'A' STUDENT OF THE GAME

MIKEY GARCIA'S COMBINATION OF KNOW-HOW AND KILLER INSTINCT COULD TURN HIM INTO A STAR

By: **Norm Frauenheim**

Just when it looked as if white hats were vanishing in a world dressed up in black, Mikey Garcia showed up in one. He wore it like the sheriff he might become. Good guys are harder to find than stars are these days. It's almost impossible to find both beneath one hat.

Yet, there they were, one rare mix in what appeared to be a perfect fit, when Garcia stepped into Madison Square Garden in a Western-style hat that reflected lights off white felt as bright as a future beginning to unfold after his victory over Orlando Salido on Jan. 19.

The featherweight fight ended prematurely, or at least it did from the perspective of a crowd and HBO audience suddenly awakened to Garcia's varied skill set. It was described as somehow unsatisfying. The technical part of the decision was seen as an asterisk, a blemish on an otherwise spotless record (31-0, 26 KOs). For some, it left questions about how Garcia would react when confronted by rising tides of adversity.

OK, a knockout would have been more definitive than a technical decision after eight rounds because of a head butt that left Garcia with a fractured nose. Yeah, four more rounds of Garcia's dominance might have provided a more thorough examination of a fighter as comfortable in the champion's role as he is in that new hat. Even Garcia seemed frustrated, almost as if the result was more of an interruption than a conclusion.

What passes for criticism, however, might actually be something else. Listen carefully. It sounds a lot like an appetite for more.

"I think over the eight or nine rounds, the world finally got a chance to see my qualities and abilities," said 25-year-old Garcia, who has been healing from post-fight surgery for a nose so busted up it was difficult to breathe. "They saw the fighter I am. The ending probably does take away a little bit from the feeling and happiness I would have experienced had the fight gone all 12 rounds or had I stopped him. But in those rounds, everybody got to see the kind of fighter that I am.

"Expect the world to see a lot more of me."

It's as if most of Garcia's early life prepared him for much more in what could be a long stay at the top of a chaotic game full of more interim titles than enduring success.

He grew up in a family that spends as much time in the ring as it does in the kitchen. At the dinner table, the Garcias could have a pretty good pound-for-pound debate about who is No. 1 in the family.

Older brother and Mikey's trainer, Robert Garcia, a former junior lightweight titleholder with an impressive record (37-3, 25 KOs), is the 2012 Trainer of the Year. Their father and Mikey's co-trainer, Eduardo, was an amateur boxer and Fernando Vargas' trainer. An uncle, Daniel Garcia, trained Victor Ortiz. Robert and Daniel feuded for a while. But if there's anything new about that, you don't know the Mayweathers.

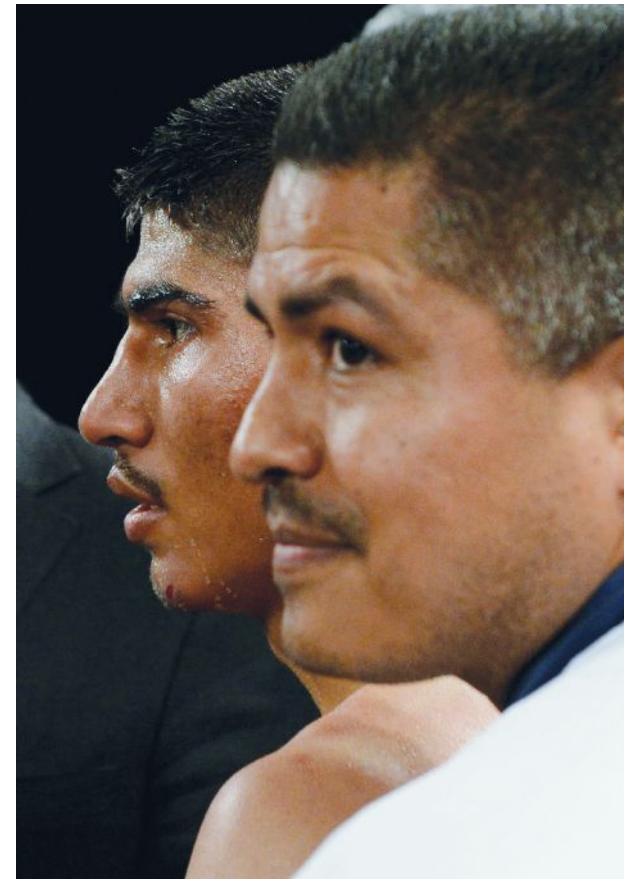


Image: Naoki Fukuda

Mikey Garcia (left) followed in the footsteps of his brother, former junior lightweight titleholder Robert Garcia.

A surprise, perhaps, is that Mikey ever put on a pair of gloves. Not long ago, Robert foresaw him in a different trade, perhaps law or academics or anything that didn't include a cut man. But boxing?

"Probably not," said Robert, who turned 38 on Jan. 29. "When I was fighting, Mikey wasn't even in the gym. Mikey started boxing at 14 and never wanted to. I saw my brother doing other stuff. He's very smart, so I thought he was going to be doing something else."

Mikey stepped through the ropes and into the family business almost as if it were a backyard pick-up game. He accompanied his family to see a nephew, Xavier, fight at an amateur smoker in Canoga Park, Calif. A kid on the card didn't have an opponent. Mikey volunteered.

Image: Hunter Martin-Getty

Garcia has knocked out 26 of his 31 opponents, including Matt Remillard in 10 rounds in March 2011.

"We told him, Mikey, you haven't even trained," Robert recalled.

Didn't win, either.

But Robert detected ability, perhaps learned or maybe in his DNA. And Mikey quickly discovered that he liked the give, take and tactics that had surrounded him for as long as he could remember. They returned to Oxnard where Mikey left the playground and went to the gym, now Robert Garcia's Boxing Academy. For him, much of the challenge was and still is cerebral. That gym was a classroom.

"What I enjoy the most is the technical part," he said. "Countering, studying and observing when guys get hurt."

It's no accident that Garcia has a complement of physical gifts that allow him to execute plans based on his observations. There's speed in Garcia's footwork. He throws beautiful left hooks while moving from side to side and backward in a tactical dance that in some ways is reminiscent of Roy Jones Jr.

The Jones parallel might be seen as a reach by some. Above all, it still needs to be tested against, say, a Yuriorkis Gamboa. For now, there seems to be no chance of Garcia vs. junior featherweight champion Nonito Donaire. They're friends. Robert Garcia trains both. They have the same manager, Cameron Dunkin.

"Nonito and I don't ever discuss fighting each other," Mikey said. "I just focus on what I'm doing and his focus is on what he's doing."

Still, there are enough challenges at 126 and 130 pounds to test the Jones-like promise that was evident in January. In a brilliant bit of matchmaking by Top Rank's Bruce Trampler, Salido might have been the perfect fall guy for Garcia. Salido, an archetypal tough guy known for two knockouts of Juan Manuel Lopez, understands only one direction: forward, ever forward and always in a straight line.

Do the geometry and calculate the physics. If fights are in fact dictated by style, Salido was the perfect opponent to illuminate Garcia's mix of mobility, power and know-how. Garcia was the spinning top, the perpetual motion that Salido couldn't corner or counter while running into punches that put him on the canvas four times within the first four rounds.

Can Garcia be hit? Yeah, it looks as if he can. But don't blink or look away because his feet are moving, already taking him out of harm's way and leading a more single-minded foe into another trap

Garcia's wide variety of ring skills looks as if it's an expression of a student who likes to read textbooks as much as he does an opponent's eyes and body language. He has an associate's degree from Oxnard Community College, where he was an honors student. In a 2011 profile on him for ABC's American Latino, he sat on a ring apron and displayed a certificate he won for being on the Dean's List with all the pride he might have shown while holding up a world title belt.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Garcia's demolition of Orlando Salido (left) was the biggest step yet in his bright career.

"I never thought of the sport as a career," said Mikey, who grew up watching Oscar De La Hoya, Mike Tyson, Julio Cesar Chavez, Vargas and his older brother fight on television in some of the best bouts of their era. "I just saw it as something I was interested in."

Other interests include law enforcement. He went to the Ventura County (Calif.) Police & Sheriff Reserves Academy for a six-month course. He graduated three years ago. Cops, he said, always fascinated him as much as boxers. He recalls them visiting his elementary school and talking to classes about what their jobs were like. A badge, he says, is as valuable as a title. It also lasts a lot longer than any title reign.

MIKEY'S MOST ADMIRED

Mikey Garcia is a student of boxing … and boxers. He was asked by THE RING to name three fighters he admires and why. Here is what he said.

FLOYD MAYWEATHER JR.

His ability, his skills. He's so smart. He knows what he needs to do to win. You can't hit the guy, you can't touch him. How can you beat a guy like that? He can hit you any time he wants, he can stand in front of you, and you still can't hit him. When he moves around, people say he's running. Whatever. I've always thought he was the best. Mayweather. He's amazing at what he does.

RICARDO "FINITO" LOPEZ

He was a very good counter-puncher, very heavy handed. Punches don't have to be thrown from a long distance to have good power behind them. You can connect with a short uppercut or hook and have good power. I don't think many remember (Lopez) because he was so little. I saw the last few fights of his career and have seen some tapes of him. The guy was great. The guy could counterpunch you. And when he did, you fell down.

JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ

Marquez is similar to Lopez. He's more aggressive now but when he was a featherweight he was a very good counter-puncher. I think he figured he had to become more aggressive to make money. And he made more money for sure. He was able to get bigger fights. When he was a featherweight no one wanted to give him a title shot. I honestly prefer that Marquez. A great counter-puncher.

– Michael Rosenthal

Then there are life lessons that are part and parcel of everything that goes into a law-enforcement education. It teaches poise and patience. Don't let emotion get in the way or give you away. Garcia didn't during his methodical beat down of Salido and throughout his restrained celebration of the victory during the post-fight proceedings.

What's taught at the Police Academy, he said, is valuable in a lot places, including the ring. Those classes taught him things not always learned in sparring.

"In my case, the way you read a suspect is the way you read an opponent," he said. "That helped me. I'm very good at that. You see a person, and you read their eyes, and you read their body language. You look to see if they're jumpy and they're jittery and they're looking around like a suspicious person. Are they nervous in the way that they speak and how they're standing? Are they guarded?"

Out of respect perhaps for classmates who are cops today, Garcia is quick and careful to say that he isn't one.

"I'm just being a boxer," he said

But not just another boxer.

Sometime in late spring, he hopes to unify the 126-pound title. Then a jump in weight up to 130 pounds looms as a possibility. It's only a guess as to whether the heavier weight might lead to Gamboa. It's no secret that Garcia-Gamboa is one of the fights that have landed on the long list of those that fans want to see, yet often don't. Juan Manuel Lopez is another possibility. Lopez is back in the mix after a comeback victory over Aldimar Silva Santos on Feb. 2 in Puerto Rico. Both are promoted by Top Rank.

"A fight with Lopez would be pretty big," Garcia said. "He just fought, so he wants to get back into the championship league again, so it would definitely be a good fight. But it's really up to my manager and my promoter to decide that. But like I tell everybody, if it was up to me, I would go after Yuriorkis Gamboa. He's undefeated and he vacated the title in our featherweight division. So, yeah, I would love to go after him."

Whatever happens, it's safe to

Salido (right) had a style that suited Garcia's counterpunching mentality but the Mexican certainly was no pushover.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

say that Garcia won't stand still for long. If he isn't moving across canvas, he's moving through life.

"Boxing was never his main goal," Robert Garcia said. "He's doing his job. He's just basically graduating. If he does lose a few and it doesn't work out, I think he'll just say, 'Hey, I gave it my best shot. No regrets.'"

Then, perhaps, Garcia will wear that white hat into another fight, with the same trained eye that can get a quick read on what to do and when to do it.

"You've got to pay attention to the little details," said Garcia, who is suddenly getting big attention in the one world he knows better than any in his diverse universe. ■

THE 10 BEST

THE TOP ACTIVE MEXICAN-AMERICAN BOXERS, ACCORDING TO RINGTV.COM EDITOR DOUG FISCHER.

Nine Mexican-American boxers are rated by THE RING. That's more than the total number of fighters from all but six countries, which is a testament to the deep-seeded boxing tradition of this ethnic group.

Fighters such as brawler Brandon Rios, tough guy Robert Guerrero, young star Mikey Garcia and body banger Leo Santa Cruz are among the best and most-entertaining in their divisions and appear to be on the rise. And there are many more where they came from.

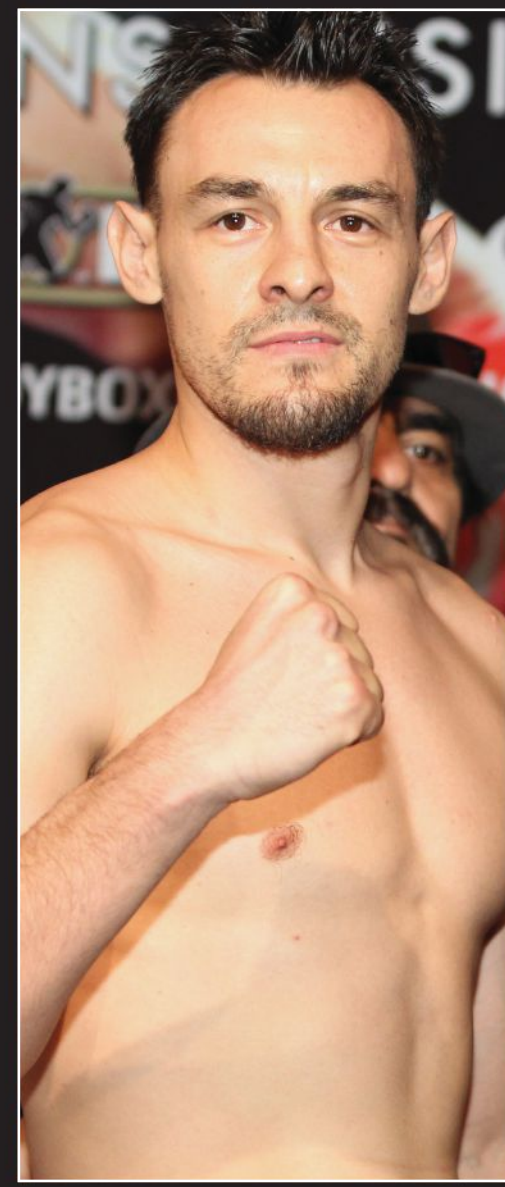
But who's the best of the bunch?

Doug Fischer, Editor of RingTV.com, agreed to rank the 10 best active Mexican-American boxers. He also provided a list of 10 up-and-comers to watch, talented young boxers who represent the next wave of Mexican-Americans.

And, finally, in a nod to the great fighters of the past, he provided his list of the 10 best Mexican-American boxers of all time. Let the debates begin.

ALL-TIME TOP 10 MEXICAN-AMERICANS

1. Oscar De La Hoya
2. Manuel Ortiz
3. Bobby Chacon
4. Johnny Tapia
5. Danny Lopez
6. Michael Carbajal
7. Genaro Hernandez
8. Orlando Canizales
9. Jesse James Leija
10. Mando Ramos



1 Robert Guerrero
31-1-1, 18 KOs

The 29-year-old veteran is unbeaten since his lone split decision loss to current 130-pound beltholder Gamaliel Diaz in 2005. Since then, he's climbed to the top of four weight classes: featherweight (where he won the IBF title twice), junior lightweight (where he lifted the IBF belt), lightweight (where he punished Michael Katsidis) and welterweight (where he bested Andre Berto in a war).

Images: Naoki Fukuda, Getty, Hoganphotos and AFP

2

Miguel Angel "Mikey" Garcia

31-0, 26 KOs

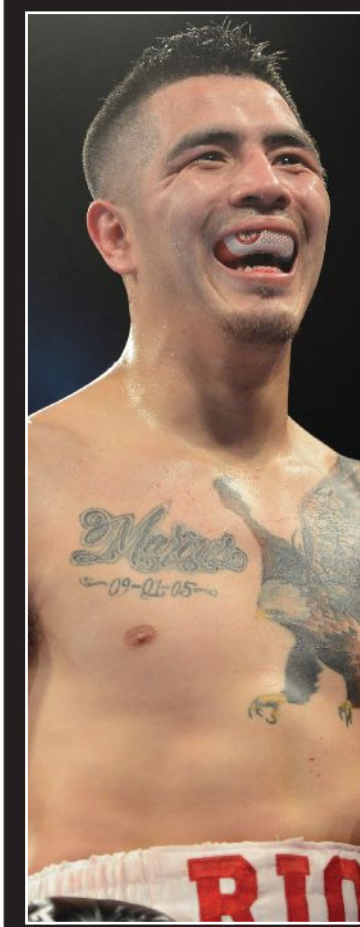
Garcia, the younger brother of former beltholder and Trainer of the Year Robert Garcia, remained unbeaten with a dominating eight-round technical decision over THE RING's No. 1-rated featherweight Orlando Salido in January. The 25-year-old counterpunching technician looked like the total package lifting the rugged Mexican's WBO belt while earning the vacant RING title.

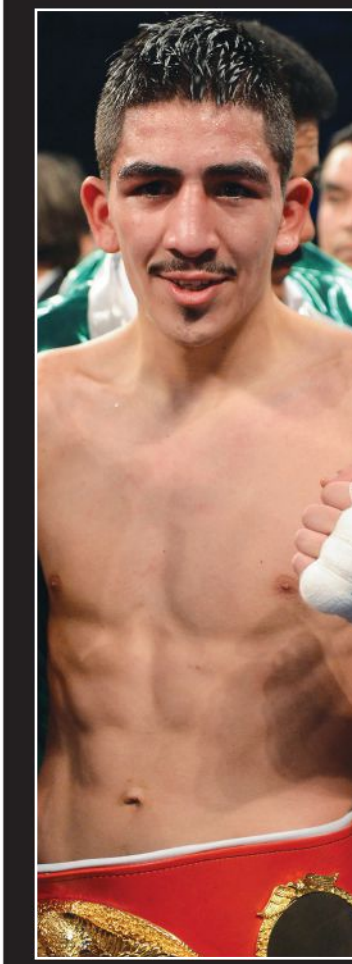
3

Brandon Rios

31-0-1, 23 KOs

Garcia, the younger brother of former beltholder and Trainer of the Year Robert Garcia, remained unbeaten with a dominating eight-round technical decision over THE RING's No. 1-rated featherweight Orlando Salido in January. The 25-year-old counterpunching technician looked like the total package lifting the rugged Mexican's WBO belt while earning the vacant RING title.



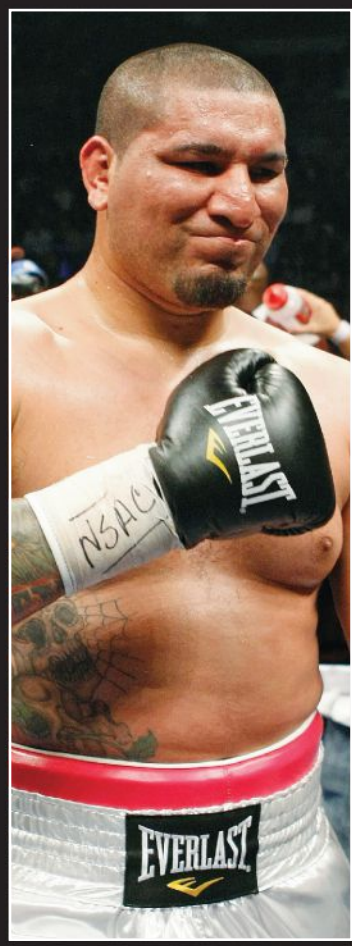


4

Leo Santa Cruz

23-0-1, 13 KOs

Santa Cruz, 24, held the IBF bantamweight title he won by outpointing Vusi Malinga last June for only six months but made the most of his brief reign, defending it three times, including a TKO of Eric Morel. The unbeaten pressure fighter isn't slick but he's the busiest body puncher in the sport and should be a player at junior featherweight.



5

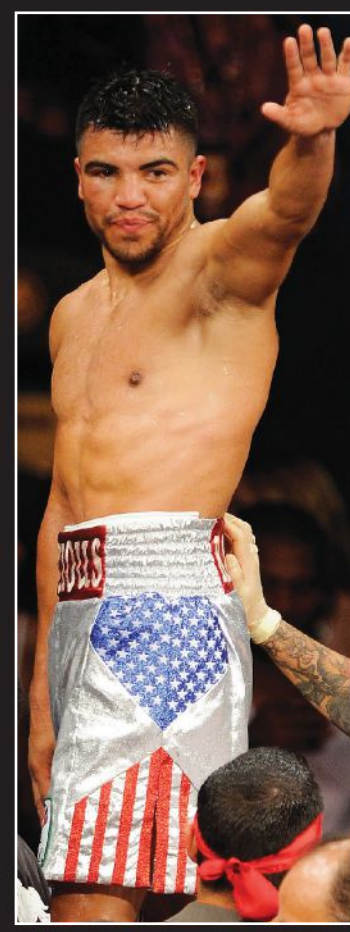
Chris Arreola
35-2, 30 KOs

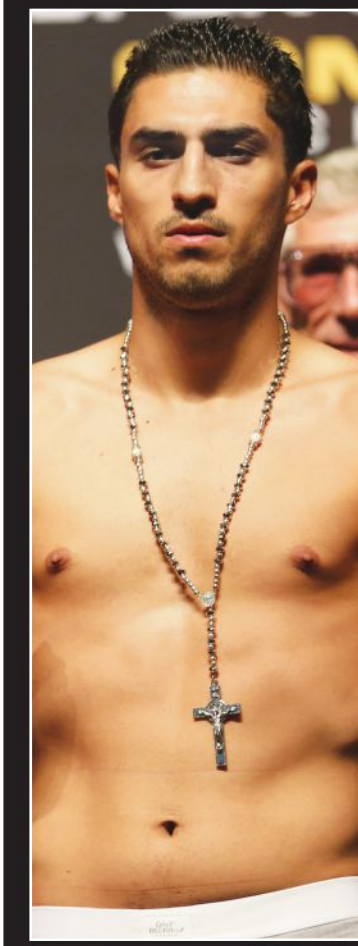
The 31-year-old heavyweight contender scored impressive victories over prospects and faded vets on his way up but fell short when he faced world-class opposition, WBC titleholder Vitali Klitschko in 2009 and Tomasz Adamek in 2010. He has won seven consecutive bouts since the Adamek loss and will earn another title shot if he beats Bermane Stiverne on March 9.

6

Victor Ortiz
29-4-2, 22 KOs

The talented but quirky former welterweight titleholder's career is marked by extreme highs (his title-winning victory over Berto) and lows (stoppages against Marcos Maidana and Josesito Lopez) with a dash of the bizarre (TKO against Floyd Mayweather), but he's seldom in a boring fight. Despite the setbacks, Ortiz, 26, he remains a compelling figure in the sport.





7

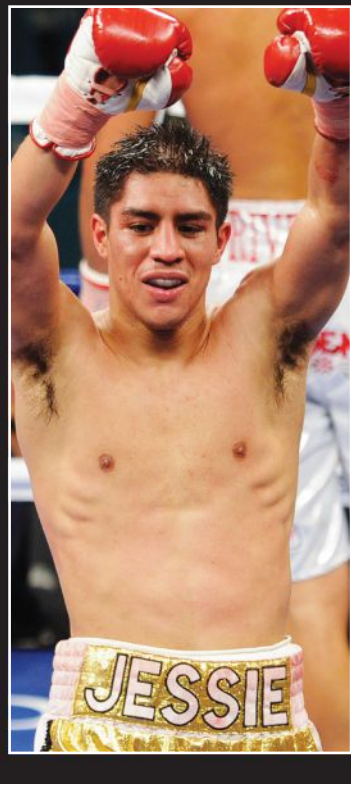
Josesito Lopez
30-5, 18 KOs

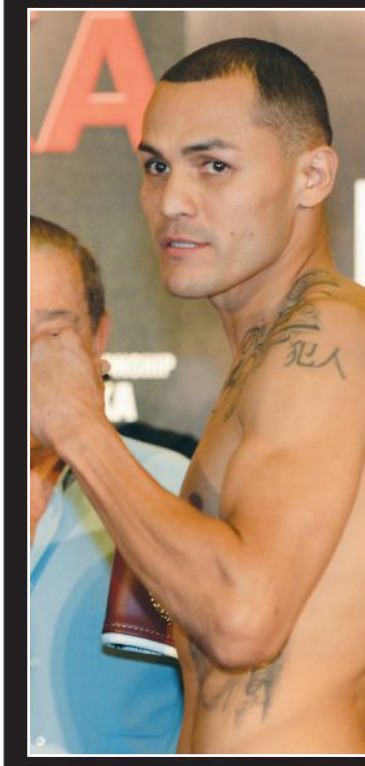
The only decisive loss of the 28-year-old veteran's career is his fifth-round stoppage against WBC 154-pound titleholder Saul Alvarez, who was simply too big and strong for the hardnosed boxer-brawler to compete with. Lopez, who has stoppage victories over Ortiz and Mike Dallas Jr., is still a major factor at junior welterweight and welterweight.

8

Jessie Vargas
21-0, 9 KOs

The 23-year-old welterweight has won 21 consecutive fights since turning pro in 2010, including a first-round stoppage of former 140-pound titleholder Vivian Harris, a decision over former welterweight title challenger Steve Forbes and a razor-thin split decision over Josesito Lopez. The former Roger Mayweather disciple, who's now trained by Robert Alcazar, faces fellow unbeaten prospect Wale Omotoso on March 16.





9

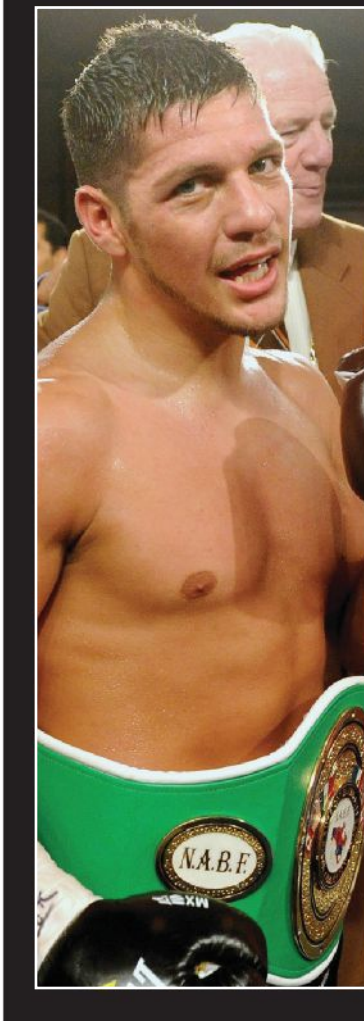
Mike Alvarado
33-1, 23 KOs

Alvarado, 33, won his first 33 bouts – including victories over junior middleweight contender Carlos Molina (MD 8), former lightweight titleholder Cezar Bazan (KO 4) and fringe contenders Ray Narh (TKO 3), Breidis Prescott (TKO 10) and Mauricio Herrera (UD 10) – before his Fight-of-the-Year candidate clash with Rios. The strong technical brawler faces Rios again on March 30.

10

Diego Magdaleno
23-0, 9 KOs

The 26-year-old junior lightweight, who has outpointed solid prospects Josenilson Dos Santos and Alejandro Perez, will pit his technique, tenacity and southpaw savvy against WBO beltholder Roman Martinez in his first title shot on April 6.



10 UP-AND-COMERS

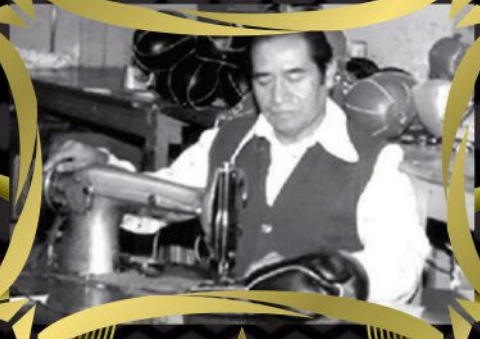
(In alphabetical order) Chris Avalos, Jose Benavides, Joel Diaz, Joseph Diaz Jr., Omar Figueroa Jr., Frankie Gomez, Jesse Magdaleno, Jose Ramirez, Ronny Rios and Gabino Saenz.

JUST THE BEST

CLETO REYES®

HECHO EN MEXICO

HAND MADE



Los Guantes de los Campeones

store.cletoreyes.com

www.cletoreyes.com

sales.usa@cletoreyes.com

6904 Miramar RD, Suite 104
San Diego, CA 92121

(619) 419 43 18

1808 N National Street
Anaheim, CA 92801

HEADQUARTERS OFFICE AND SHOWROOM IN MEXICO CITY
Wagner 289 Col. Vallejo 07870 Mèxico, D.F. Tel. (52 55) 55 17 83 01

Facebook/cletoreyesusa

cletoreyesusa

Look for our authorized dealers

Official Dealer CLETO REYES USA - CANADA 2013

IceLink
Zermatt
Limited Edition Collection
LONDON
NEW YORK
HONG KONG
DUBAI
SWISS MADE
ICELINKWATCH.COM
IceLink Flagship Boutique
666 North Kilkea Drive · Los Angeles · California · 323.782.8666
GENEVA / PARIS / SINGAPORE / MOSCOW / HONG KONG / MACAU / BARCELONA
LOS ANGELES / AMSTERDAM / TOKYO / DUBAI / KIEV / NEW YORK

"You always think of yourself as the best you ever were. That's human nature."

— Sugar Ray Leonard

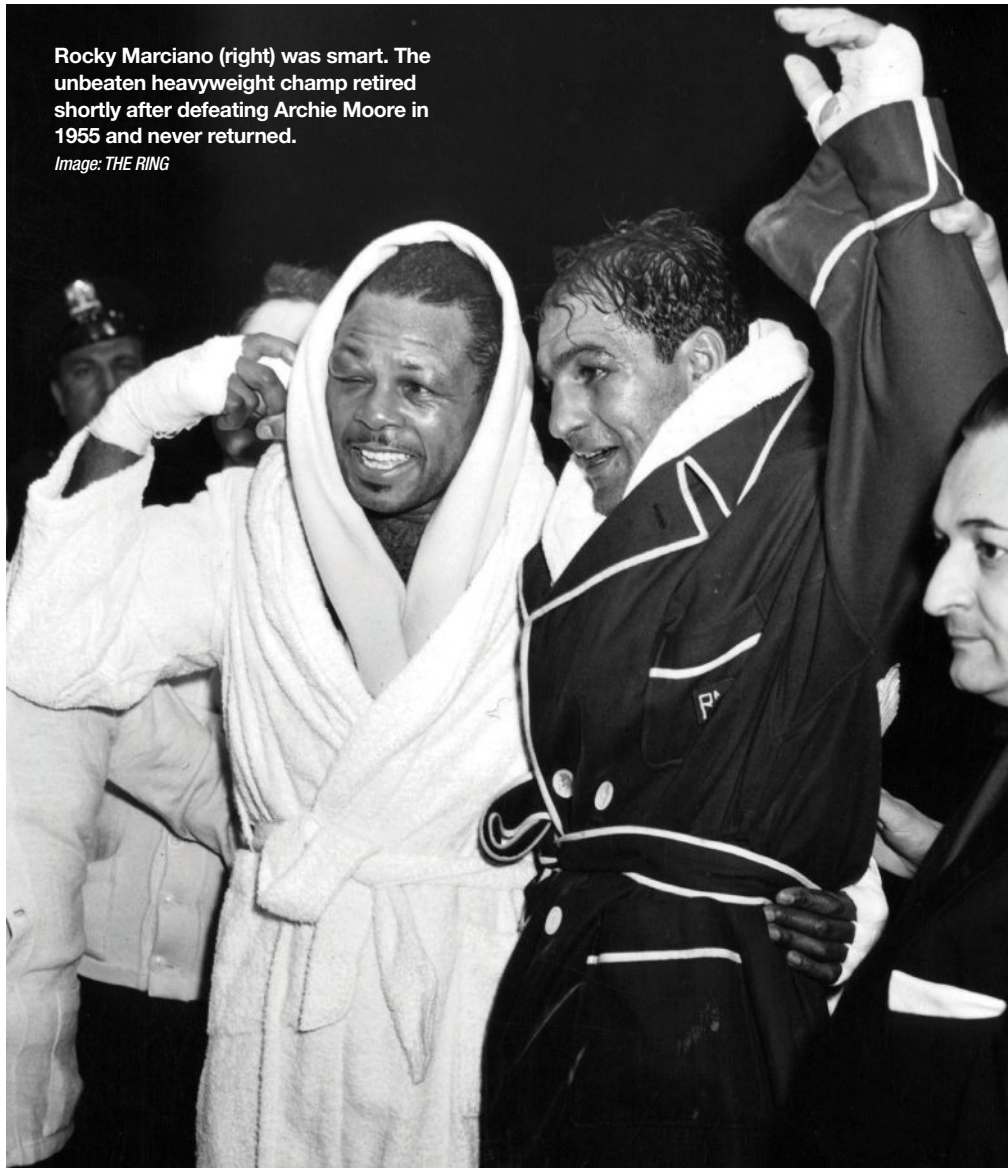
Image: THE RING

Sugar Ray Leonard, meeting the canvas against Hector Camacho, had two too many fights.

LOOOONG GOODBYES

BOXING RETIREMENTS ARE MOSTLY A SERIES OF INTERRUPTED FAREWELLS

By: **Bernard Fernandez**



Rocky Marciano (right) was smart. The unbeaten heavyweight champ retired shortly after defeating Archie Moore in 1955 and never returned.
Image: THE RING

Like aging singers who periodically announce that their current concert tour absolutely marks their final public appearance, then return a year later like swallows to Capistrano, boxing farewells tend to be transitory things. More often than not, they are written in wet sand, not fast-drying cement.

Fighters who tell us they are quitting the ring probably aren't blatantly lying, but the suspicion is that their hearts aren't as certain as their words might suggest. For many professional punchers – rich or poor, celebrated champions or disposable prelim guys – "retirement" merely represents an interrupted series of goodbyes.

"You always think of yourself as the best you ever were. That's human nature," said the legendary Sugar Ray Leonard, 56, who walked away from boxing five times and made a U-turn following the first four of those pronouncements. "And that's not just how highly successful people think. Everyone thinks that way.

"Most guys come back for money. They need another payday, and there are people around them feeding their egos, telling them how good they still are, because they want a piece of the action. Maybe they come back because they really don't know anything but boxing, and they're apprehensive about entering the next phase of their lives that doesn't include it.

"But even if money is not an issue, and you have other options, you never lose that belief in yourself as a fighter, particularly if you've been to the very top of the mountain. (Being retired) eats at you. It's hard to find anything else that can give you that high. Once you accomplish what I did against Marvin (Hagler), you tell yourself, 'I did it before, I can do it again.' I felt that way about Muhammad Ali when he fought Larry Holmes. I had so much belief in Ali because of all the miraculous things he'd done, like going to

3 COMEBACKS THAT WERE SUCCESSFUL ...

SUGAR RAY LEONARD
Leonard had already "retired" twice when he decided to come back after a three-year hiatus to face the great Marvin Hagler on April 6, 1987 in Las Vegas. A surprisingly sharp Sugar Ray, only 30 at the time, made boxing history and claimed the world middleweight championship by winning a disputed split decision.

GEORGE FOREMAN
Foreman "retired" in 1977 after losing a decision to Jimmy Young and having a religious experience in his dressing room, which led him to become a minister. He returned in 1987, fought himself into shape and became the oldest (at 45) to win the heavyweight title when he stopped Michael Moorer on Nov. 5, 1994 in Las Vegas.

VITALI KLITSCHKO
The elder Klitschko brother "retired" in 2005 after various injuries scuttled four scheduled fights with Hasim Rahman. However, with his wounds healed, he returned to win the WBC heavyweight title by stopping Sam Peter in his first fight back. Klitschko is 10-0 in his comeback (with seven knockouts) and has barely lost a round.

Image: Alexander Hassenstein-Bongarts-Getty

Former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis, who retired after a brutal fight against Vitali Klitschko (right), considered a comeback but thought better of it.

Africa and beating George Foreman. But that Ali didn't exist anymore by the time he fought Holmes.

"The reason I came back those last couple of times was because I was not happy. I was dying inside. The only place I felt truly comfortable and relaxed was in the ring. I needed that safety net. But at some point you have to face up to whatever problems you might have and deal with them. Nine times out of 10, it's disastrous if you continue to push the envelope. If you've been out of the life a long time, you become too civilized. That's not necessarily a bad thing, but you can lose that edge, that total commitment every fighter needs. And that's what made me and champions like me great in the first place."

Leonard's views are even more prescient in light of recent developments. Oh, sure, Bernard Hopkins is still fighting at a high level at 48, the rare and most obvious exception to the natural laws of diminishing returns. But with the exception of a brief retirement after his 2006 conquest of Antonio Tarver, Hopkins has fought nearly continuously since his pro debut way back on Oct. 11, 1988. He hasn't had to launch multiple comebacks because he never really has gone away or allowed his steely competitive drive to soften. B-Hop is, to Leonard's way of thinking, "an anomaly, like George Foreman was an anomaly. What those guys did is freakin' amazing."

Not every wishful-thinking retired standout is fortunate enough to jump back into boxing and push that envelope even farther without it tearing, sometimes disastrously so. Former junior welterweight titlist Ricky "The Hitman" Hatton said he was through with the fight game after he was the victim of an emphatic, one-punch knockout by Manny Pacquiao on May 5, 2009, which came 17 months after he was on the wrong end of a more sustained 10-round beatdown by Floyd Mayweather Jr. But Hatton, as is the case with so many others, again got an itch that required scratching, and he was slammed upside the head by reality nearly as hard as Pacquiao had drilled him in losing by ninth-round stoppage to a quality opponent, Vyacheslav Senchenko, on Nov. 24 of last year.

"I am really heartbroken ... just gutted," Hatton, 34, said of his inability to summon past glories. "I suppose that is what 3½ years out of the ring does. That is not how my career should end, but a

fighter knows when it isn't there anymore and I know it now. It's too many hard fights. I've burned the candle at both ends; I've put my body through the mire in and out of the ring. I have to be a man and say, 'It's the end of Ricky Hatton.'"

Or maybe not. It is hardly inconceivable that Hatton, after a sufficient period of rest and recuperation, could dare to believe he might regain something akin to the best of his previous form. Leonard twice had layoffs of three or more years, with markedly different results. After being floored and extended by journeyman Kevin Howard, whom he eventually stopped in nine rounds on May 11, 1984, he was a vintage Sugar Ray again on April 6, 1987, scoring a split decision over the heavily favored Hagler. But the old magic had mostly vanished when Leonard dropped a one-sided unanimous decision to Terry Norris on Feb. 9, 1991, and the drop-off was even more apparent when he lost inside the distance for the sole time in his career when, at 41, he was taken out in five rounds by Hector "Macho" Camacho on March 1, 1997.

"I need the attention that boxing brings," Leonard said during the lead-up to the Camacho fight. "My ego is what made me who I am." Afterward, he admitted, as Hatton more recently did, that "there comes a point in everyone's life when you just have to accept the fact that you don't have it anymore.

"It's funny how the good memories stick with you longer," he continued. "Human nature, I suppose. I could always tell in the dressing room, when I was warming up, if it was going to be a good night or a long night. If you don't feel like you have it that night, it is the most frightening feeling for a fighter. I felt that way against Hector. I felt the same thing before the first (Roberto) Duran fight, before the second (Thomas) Hearns fight, before the fight with Terry Norris. Fighters know when they have it. They know. When I was younger and I had those little moments of doubt, which were rare, I was usually able to overcome them. After Camacho, I knew I never wanted to experience a moment like that again. It's like you have a vision you're about to die and you can't do anything about it."

Now, a few months after Hatton learned the hard way that good times

Image: Ethan Miller-Getty

Shane Mosley has made a great deal of money in his recent fights even if his skills are badly faded.

… AND 3 THAT WEREN'T

JOE LOUIS

Louis was no longer a great heavyweight when he "retired" in 1949. However, beset by chronic financial problems, he returned at 36 after a two-year hiatus only to be outclassed by Ezzard Charles. He then defeated marginal opponents before Rocky Marciano brutally stopped him in eight rounds in 1951. Louis never fought again.

SUGAR RAY LEONARD

Leonard decided after six years out of the ring – and at 40 years old – to face Hector "Macho" Camacho on March 1, 1997 in Atlantic City, N.J. It wasn't a good idea. Camacho, no youngster himself at 34, dominated his shell of an opponent en route to a fifth-round knockout. It was the only time Leonard was stopped.

JERRY QUARRY

Quarry was a top-tier heavyweight during the talent-rich 1970s but was a shell during two comebacks. He returned in 1982 after being away for almost five years and beat two journeymen. Then, on a heart-breaking night in 1992, undistinguished Ron Cranmer handed the 47-year-old Quarry a six-round beating that accelerated the decline that led to his Jan. 3, 1999 death.

-- Bernard Fernandez and Michael Rosenthal

inside the ropes don't last forever, another well-seasoned champion, Shane Mosley, intends to find out for himself if there is still water to be drawn from that forever-tempting but frequently dry well of optimism. Sugar Shane announced his retirement on June 4, 2012, a month after a one-sided decision loss to WBC junior middleweight champ Saul "Canelo" Alvarez left the former three-division titleholder with a 0-3-1 mark in his last four bouts. Mosley's last victory was a ninth-round TKO of Antonio Margarito on Jan. 24, 2009, which many now view as the future Hall of Famer's last hurrah.

But the 41-year-old Mosley, who turned pro in 1993, dismissed his recent missteps and announced his intention to resume his career on April 27 with a challenge of WBA welterweight champion Paulie Malignaggi at the Barclays Center in Brooklyn, N.Y. That fight, however, fell through because Malignaggi ostensibly was dissatisfied with the financial terms offered him by Golden Boy Promotions CEO Richard Schaefer, a reason – or excuse – Mosley finds difficult to accept.

"I guess he's afraid," opined Mosley, who again is being trained by his father, Jack Mosley. "I hope that isn't the case. It was a great opportunity for me, but for Paulie, too. He would make more money fighting me than for fighting some of the guys whose names I've heard he's considering.

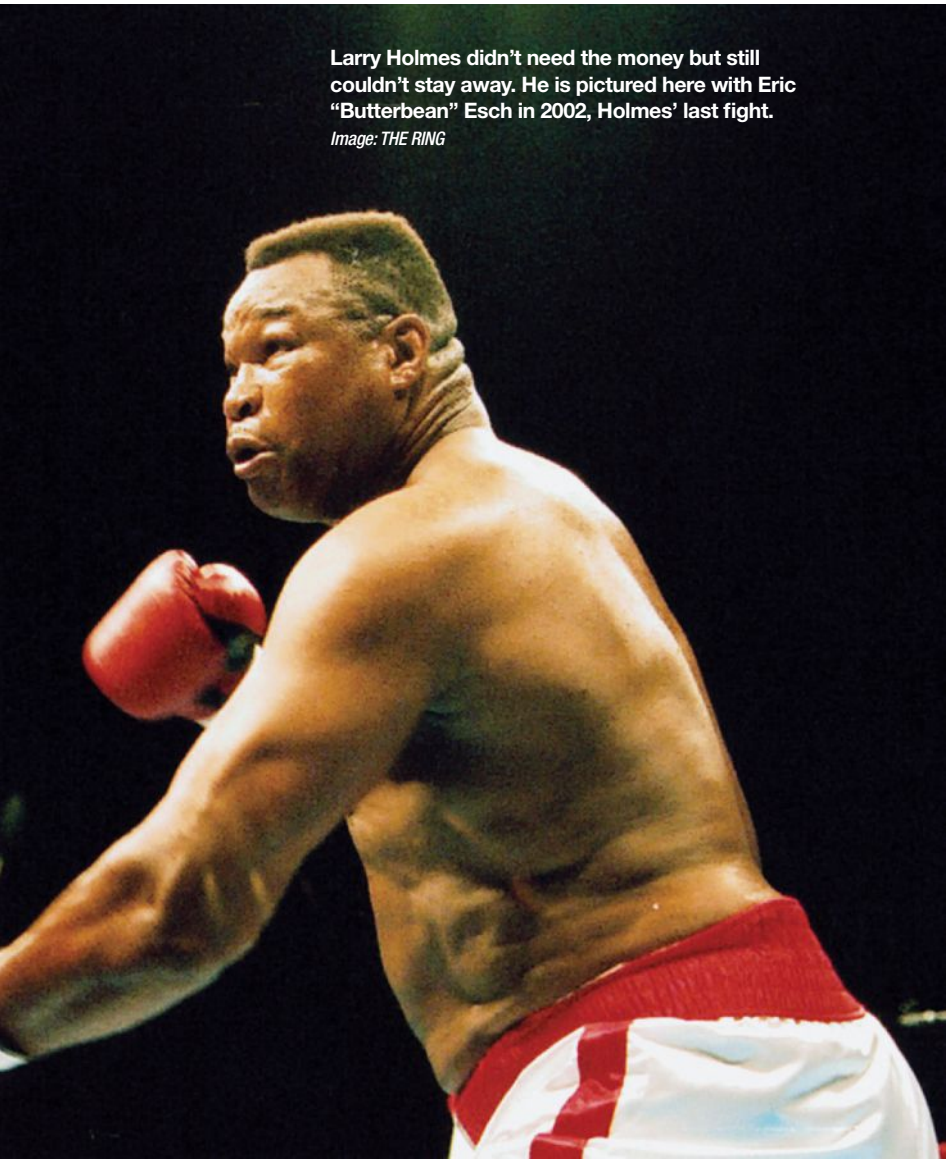
"But if not Malignaggi, I'll fight somebody. I want to see who's out there. I've been sparring with different guys, most notably Kendall Holt, and I feel good. In fact, I feel great. I feel like I want to do it again, at 147 (pounds), my proper weight. My legs are getting stronger.

"I really thought, after Canelo, I'd be able to walk away from it and go into promoting or training other fighters. I knew I would remain in the boxing world somehow, some way. But the more I thought about it, I realized that in my last four fights I was dealing with injuries that hadn't totally healed. Now I see that my body is coming back. I'm moving better. There's no reason for me not to fight."

Not all retired fighters succumb to the siren song of another twirl or two around the dance floor, but they seemingly are in the majority. It will be interesting to see whether Winky Wright, another former world champ who announced his departure from the ring wars around the same time as Sugar Shane, sticks to or reneges on that decision.

Four notable fighters who left on their own terms and never stepped through the ropes again are Hagler, Rocky Marciano, Michael Spinks and Lennox Lewis, but even those doggedly determined few are said to have at least fleeting regrets at having walked away when there still might have been a bit more gas in the tank.

Josh Dubin, an attorney and close friend of Mosley and Lewis, said that Lewis briefly entertained the notion of a comeback in 2008, when he was 43. That was four years after he officially retired in February 2004, eight months after



Larry Holmes didn't need the money but still couldn't stay away. He is pictured here with Eric "Butterbean" Esch in 2002, Holmes' last fight.
Image: THE RING

he stopped a badly bleeding (but leading on the scorecards) Vitali Klitschko.

"Lennox was continuing to train, just to stay in shape, and he got to thinking he might want to (fight) again," Dubin said. "But the more he thought about it, the more he decided that it probably wouldn't be a good idea."

Lewis spoke to that in an interview with ESPN in November 2008. "When you look back in history and see other fighters coming back, it's never really been good for them," he said. "I don't really have anything to prove. I want to be one of those guys that leaves the sport with dignity, not feeling like I have to come back."

Hagler never fought after losing that split decision to Leonard, which he disputed, but for over a year he clung to the hope he could reclaim his middleweight crown in a rematch that, alas, remained a hazy apparition. He finally announced his retirement on June 12, 1988, at the age of 34, whereupon he left for Italy to become an actor.

"When you get out, you don't want to be like Muhammad Ali," he said in taking his leave from boxing. "My heart says yes, but my brain says no. The only reason I would return would be to regain my title, but since Leonard has been playing games, it would probably take another year to work things out. I feel fortunate to get out of the ring with my faculties and my health. I'm going to say goodbye to boxing."

Spinks got a nice $13.5 million going-away present for his final fight, a first-round knockout loss to Mike Tyson on June 27, 1988, the only blemish on his record in 32 pro bouts. He was only 31 at the time and, although he hinted at a possible comeback several times in the first few years after that, those were nothing more than teases that never came anywhere near fruition.

"It's tough," Spinks said at the time. "Maybe I am too young to retire. But if people are waiting for the day I step back into the ring, they'll be surprised."

Leonard and Holmes (four announced retirements, three returns) stand in stark contrast to Marciano, Hagler, Spinks and Lewis. They are the poster boys of the boxing cha-cha, stepping back and then forward, repeating the process as the mood strikes them.

Why do they and so many others feel the urge to do so? Unlike ham-and-eggers trying to keep bill collectors away from their door, Holmes, like Leonard, was wealthy enough that he didn't need to return for another payday. There was something else that spurred him on.

"You know where I messed up?" he asked rhetorically before a 1991 comeback fight against Tim "Doc" Anderson. "When I started caring about that $2 million check, and only about that $2 million check. I turned boxing into what everybody else has turned it into, a business.

"Now that I'm rich and I have every damn thing I need, I have a greater appreciation of what this sport is all about." ■

Like Father,

Image: David Becker-Getty

Excitable Angel Garcia does much of the talking for son Danny Garcia, particularly at news conferences.

ANGEL (INCENDIARY) AND DANNY (HUMBLE) GARCIA COULDN'T BE MORE DIFFERENT BUT THE PAIRING OBVIOUSLY WORKS

By: **Ron Borges**

Love flowed along with the blood. That's how Danny Garcia began his affair with boxing.

"I remember my first two days in the gym like they were yesterday," the 24-year-old recalled when asked how his long walk to the RING 140-pound championship began. "The first day I was 7 and they said I had to leave because of insurance. In Philadelphia you had to be 10 to train in a gym.

"I went back (to the Harrowgate Boxing Club) the first day I could. I had on a little green windbreaker and blue hand wraps and I was shadowboxing and one of the trainers came up and asked me if I ever fought before.

"I said, 'No, this is my first time in the gym.' He said, 'Wow. Really? We got a tournament in a week. You want to fight?'

"My Dad and I said yeah. One week in the gym and I won a silver mittens fight. I was 75 pounds and my nose was bleeding. There was blood everywhere because I just went in there and threw my hands. I threw punches like it was a street fight but I won."

His critics might argue that Danny Garcia (25-0, 16 knockouts) hasn't changed much. Maybe they're right and maybe they're wrong but, regardless, one

Unlike Son

thing is undeniable: Danny Garcia hasn't stopped winning.

Garcia stunned the boxing world when he knocked out Amir Khan to add the WBA title to the WBC one he gained by defeating the aging Erik Morales, a win that came after being listed in Las Vegas as a laughably prohibitive 7-1 underdog. His father, Angel, who has never been one to avoid speaking his mind, looked at those odds and Khan's suspect chin and gave his friends some advice he didn't take himself.

"He was supposed to destroy Danny but Danny destroyed him," Angel Garcia said. "I couldn't believe the odds were so big. I told all my friends 'I don't bet on fights but you go get rich.'"

As things have turned out, that is a typically brash comment from Angel and a typical performance from his soft-spoken son. One does the talking, the other does the fighting and together, both believe, they are on their way to something far bigger than anyone but themselves thought possible when the kid in the green windbreaker and blue hand wraps first shadowboxed over in the corner at Harrowgate Gym.

"A lot of people underestimate Danny," Garcia's fatherly mouthpiece explained. "They always have. I'm glad they do."

A lot of people, but not his father, who first introduced his son to boxing and has trained him ever since. That type of father-son relationship is a familiar one in boxing but also one fraught with landmines.

Some say tension often grows between the two, in part, because it is unnatural for a father to push his

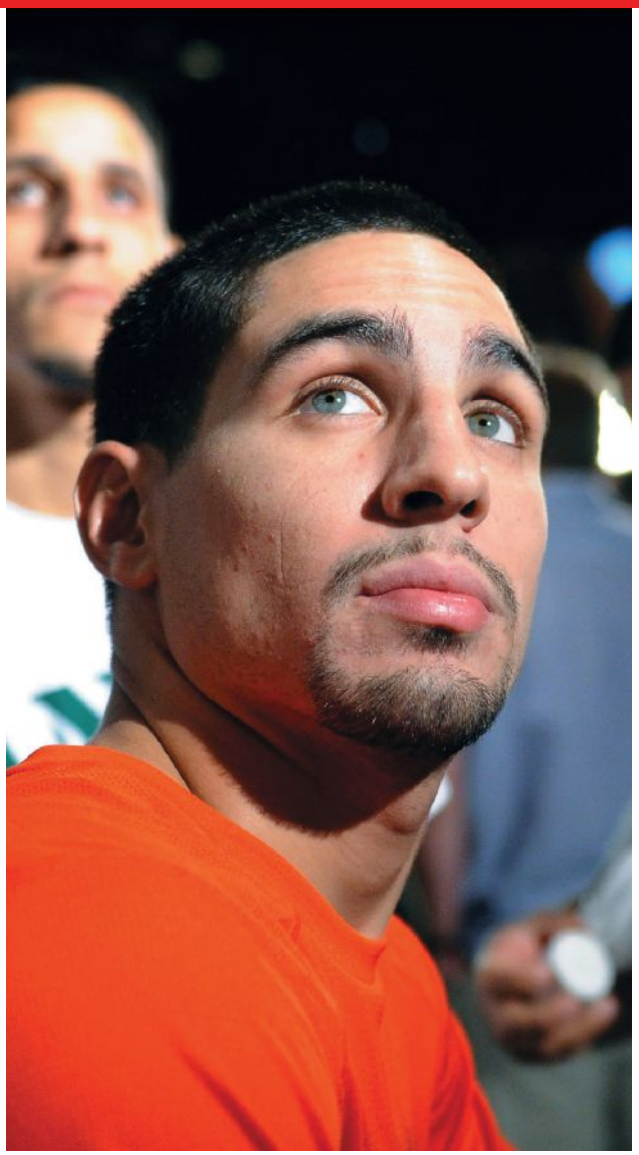


Image: David Becker-Getty

Laid back RING junior welterweight champion Danny Garcia generally does his talking with his fists.

"I told everyone Danny would be a fighter one day. ... I'm not shocked by anything he's done. When people open their eyes, they'll see he's a star."

— Angel Garcia

son into harm's way rather than protect him from it, and in part because it is hard for the father to forget the boy in the green windbreaker is now a man.

Neither has been a problem for The Fighting Garcia Family. Rather, it's been a perfect blend of each other's strengths, a merger of convenience that has made people like Morales, Khan and Kendall Holt learn an inconvenient truth: This kid can back up whatever his dad says.

"When you have a gifted fighter the job is easy," Angel Garcia said of his son. "Even when he was a little kid he'd watch a fighter on TV and when it was over he'd be doing the things he'd just seen on TV.

"I told everyone Danny would be a fighter one day. We let him play all the sports – even hockey – but I knew boxing was the sport for Danny. He was a natural fighter. I'm not shocked by anything he's done. When people open their eyes, they'll see he's a star.

"That's why we're a good team. You can be a hell of a fighter, which he is, but you got to sell tickets. Danny is humble. Quiet. I'm more talkative. Danny is the star but you have to sell the star.

"That's why I survived throat cancer, I believe. To be his voice. So he could be heard through me."

Certainly Angel Garcia's voice has been heard. Heard insulting Amir Khan. Heard insulting the father of the great former champion Morales. Heard insulting Zab Judah and warning that April 27 will only bring the latest in a line of failed big moments for the Brooklyn native.

At times the father's words might be cringeworthy. Where Angel is loud, Danny is soft. Where Angel brags, Danny is humble.

Yet never once has the son taken the father aside, even after winning the RING, WBC and WBA titles. Never once has he suggested he tone things down or expressed any embarrassment, even when his father attacked Khan's Pakistani ancestry ("I never saw a Pakistani who could fight," he said before his son knocked Khan cold in the fourth round last July). For the son, it is just his father's way of fighting; different from his way but a part of the whole.

"That's just the way he is," the son said, laughing as he spoke. "That's how he is all day. He says what he feels. It's just the way he is.

"It's definitely helped me with exposure. The fighters who get the most exposure are the ones who talk. I might feel something but I don't usually say it. You ask my dad how he feels, you're going to find out.

"I never thought to ask him to stop. He might snap on me! I let him be who he is and he lets me be who I am."

Who Danny Garcia is, at the moment, is a shooting star few people in boxing want to acknowledge. Perhaps it's because of his dad's bombast. Perhaps it's because he was relatively unheralded when he came out of the amateurs after failing to make the U.S. Olympic team.

Or perhaps it's simply because Garcia is one of those guys whose whole is greater than its individual parts. There are faster guys, more powerful guys, better defensive guys, better offensive guys, better counterpunchers. But when you add up what he does have, well, referees seem to keep raising his hand, don't they?

Image: Jeff Gross-Getty

Angel Garcia couldn't have been more confident – or calm – before his son took on favored Amir Khan last July.

"When his critics see him in the ring, they don't see anything special," said Eric Gomez, matchmaker for Golden Boy Promotions, who helps direct Garcia's career. "Nothing really stands out.

"He's not a defensive whiz. You can't say he has the most speed or is the best technician but he does everything good. They miss the fact he's a solid, solid guy.

"He has a good, grounded game. He has a good chin and he's a big puncher with both hands. That's what makes him good and he has one thing you cannot teach: Danny Garcia has a lot of desire."

Khan found that out when he chose to press Garcia early, putting his own suspect chin at risk. After Garcia's father verbally attacked him at the pre-fight press conference Khan snapped, "I promise you – I've never said this at a press conference – I will knock Danny Garcia out and if his dad wants it afterwards ... That will shut his dad up anyway. I'm going to hurt his son. He said he's never seen a Pakistani fight. He's going to see a Pakistani fight on Saturday and knock his son out."

Two nights later Khan was an ex-champion, having walked right into a hornet's nest made by Angel Garcia and loosed on him by his son. Three times he was sent to the floor, once from a crushing left hook and another time from two overhand rights.

By the time referee Kenny Bayless stepped in and stopped the bout after talking to an unresponsive Khan at 2:28 of the fourth round, it was clear that Danny Garcia shouldn't have been a 7-1 underdog. He was what his father always believed he was.

"Khan didn't respect Danny at all," Angel Garcia said. "They had no respect for us. If that's how it is, Danny's gotta keep knocking them out.

"He's a two-handed puncher. You can't predict how he's going to hurt you but you better understand he will. When he hits me by accident in the gym it hurts for three days."

Image: Jeff Gross-Getty

As usual, Garcia made good on his father's boasts by stopping the favored Khan in four rounds last July.

Sandwiched around the Khan fight, Garcia twice beat Morales, first by decision and the second with a devastating left hook that spun Morales around and sent him through the ropes and into retirement.

Now he awaits Judah, who is enraged after hearing Garcia's father say of him, "Everybody is talking about Zab. Zab this, that, whatever. Every time he stepped up he lost. So what's the point? He didn't win!"

Similar words followed until Judah ended up in Angel's face, expletives flying in combinations, as the champion watched in amusement. Once things settled down Judah sounded like Khan, hollering about how he would torture Garcia's son on Feb. 9, the original date of the fight.

Little has changed since a rib injury to Danny Garcia forced a 2½-month postponement. Angel Garcia is still talking. Zab Judah is still hot about it. And Danny is still smiling, a young champion with little to say but much to do.

"My dad was just stating true facts," he said. "Every time he took a tough fight he failed. My dad motivates me. He talks crap and I got to back it up."

And so he has, although he remains one of those champions still waiting for the fight that satisfies those who refuse to see what Angel sees and his son believes.

Many believe a showdown with Lucas Matthysse (33-2, 31 KOs), whose only losses have been disputed split decisions to Judah and Devon Alexander, might be that fight. Making it, of course, is always the trick but Gomez understands what it could mean for Garcia.

"The Big Fight is with Matthysse," Gomez said. "Everybody is talking about it. It would be an incredibly explosive fight.

"I believe they're the two best junior welterweights in the world. They're both big punchers and their styles would make it a dangerous fight but the kid and the Dad don't care. They'll fight anybody.

"Those are the matches everybody wants to see. Those are the type of fights fighters are remembered for. I'm hopeful we can get it done but making fights like that is never easy."

Image: Jeff Gross-Getty

The Garcia family had a not-so-private celebration in the ring after Danny knocked out Khan to win the RING championship and unify two sanctioning-body 140-pound titles.

While true, that's not because of the Garcias. Father and son agree completely when it comes to making matches.

"Line 'em up and Danny will knock them down," the elder Garcia said.

"Line 'em up and I'll knock them down," the son echoed. "I might be one of those fighters who just never gets his props. When I was younger my problem was I was trying to kill everybody. I had a couple tough fights because of that and I realized you've got to set things up.

"I'm not surprised to be in this position. I knew if I got the opportunity I could do it. I knew I could beat the best fighters. I knew I was capable of being the best. I'll fight anyone to prove it." ■

"My dad was just stating true facts. Every time (Judah) took a tough fight he failed. My dad motivates me. He talks crap and I got to back it up."

— Danny Garcia

The making of a HERO

SERGIO MARTINEZ HAS DEMONSTRATED UNUSUAL ABILITY IN MANY FIGHTS. AGAINST JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ JR., HE PROVED HIS METTLE TO HIS PEOPLE AND HIMSELF.

By: **Bart Barry**

Sergio Martinez relished the opportunity to perform – and beat Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. – in front of an enthusiastic group of his fellow Argentines.
Image: Julie Jacobson-Associated Press

"I had rage, much rage, in that moment, I was enraged with myself, furious. I told myself, 'Do not take one step backward. Do not go from here without fighting.' "

Image: John Gurzinski-AFP-Getty

Martinez's misfortune of hitting the canvas against Chavez gave him the opportunity to prove his mettle.

Moments after weathering a 12th-round onslaught from Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. that nearly undid him, Sergio Martinez stood on the blue apron at Thomas & Mack Center in Las Vegas, raised his hands and beamed. Then thousands of his countrymen, fellow Argentines who'd gathered on the UNLV campus that September night, serenaded the middleweight champion as a national hero.

Martinez's most terrifying moment will prove to be his career's most lucrative. An enormous crowd is expected for his next title defense – against Englishman Martin Murray on April 27 in Buenos Aires – and, assuming he wins, the pay-per-view profits he'll demand in a rematch with Chavez will reflect Martinez's significantly increased profile.

The admiration he gained from his countrymen for the ordeal he endured in September, though, holds a greater value still.

"At least my country, Argentina, learned a certain moral about me," Martinez says of that 12th round in September. "A moral, as we say, that until that moment, Argentina did not know about me … that I do not solely box, punching until I get hit, but rather that when I get hit and knocked down, I rise, and I keep fighting."

Prizefighters fear humiliation more than pain, and humiliation was en route that night in Vegas. Chavez, a

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Martinez's fans reveled in his domination of Chavez for 11 rounds and were impressed he was able to survive the 12th round.

man Martinez called "a lie" months before – and then, for 34 ½ minutes, nearly revealed him to be – suddenly was on top of the Argentine, dominating him, pursuing Martinez's submission. The noise that filled the arena in that instant was a detonation of Mexican expectations delayed, abandoned, then revived. It overwhelmed those gathered in a way nothing before it had anticipated.

Prizefighters fear humiliation more than pain, and humiliation was en route that night in Vegas. Chavez, a man Martinez called "a lie" months before – and then, for 34 ½ minutes, seemingly proved him to be just that – suddenly was on top of the Argentine, dominating him, pursuing Martinez's submission. The noise that filled the arena in that instant was a detonation of Mexican expectations delayed, abandoned, then revived. It overwhelmed those gathered in a way nothing before it had anticipated.

"Yes," Martinez said with a sporting sigh, "the end of the fight was dramatic."

Two months earlier, in July, Martinez had declared that 99 percent of what he does in the ring is choreographed beforehand and no improvisation is permitted. But there he was, his right knee ruined, his body spread limply across the canvas and Chavez standing over him.

"In the last round, that 1 percent gained a lot of force," Martinez said from a boxing gym in Madrid. "He threw a punch that I did not have to get hit with. It knocked me to the canvas. And I believe that moment commenced, for me, a different fight."

The wondrous showman, straightening his metallic-cranberry trunks or striding cockily about the blue mat in red-on-black boots or striking his opponent with every punch in the boxer's lexicon, was suddenly desperate. His eyes went enormous. His mouth made a large O. He collapsed delicately, from the ropes to the mat, while more than 10,000 Mexicans, on the eve of Mexican Independence Day, shot upward, voices gone instantly hoarse in a euphoric mass imploring their countryman to finish the tiny man collapsed before him.

"I had rage, much rage, in that moment, I was enraged with myself, furious," Martinez said. "I told myself, 'Do not take one step backward. Do not go from here without fighting.'

"I told myself, 'Fight! Fight!'"

Martinez rose, drunken with pain and fatigue, entirely outside himself. His mien became frantic. There was nothing handsome about his bleeding countenance, nothing balletic about his footwork. He was hobbled and frail, and on the very edge of a humiliation made more sadistic by how it would end the connection that he had made, finally, with his countrymen that night.

Martinez had largely been abandoned by the boxing community of Argentina after his knockout loss to Antonio Margarito 13 years ago. The beatdown had left

lingering doubts that even some pundits still referred to when assessing his durability. And yet, from the midway point of the match against Chavez, the Argentines had filled Thomas & Mack with song, their voices euphonious over the Mexicans' embarrassed silence.

The Argentines now stood aghast, the robin's-egg blue of their flags suddenly low and wilted in sweating fists, no longer waving defiantly over the green, white and red banners of Mexico.

But rather than clinch the younger, larger, stronger man, Martinez began to punch. He showed his fellow Argentines the character they'd not been sure of – and they reveled in it.

"I did not want to give any ground to him, I did not want to retreat," Martinez said. "He sent me to the mat, fine, great, but I wanted to demonstrate that I was still alive. I had life. One must fight stunned, dizzy and tired. I was still alive."

The bell rang, and Martinez stood on the enormous red letters of the canvas' Tecate logo, the fight's Mexican sponsor, and raised his red and black gloves. And his countrymen returned to song.

"Three thousand Argentines traveling from Argentina to Las Vegas," Martinez said. "Another 3,000 Argentine residents there. A more beautiful spectacle I have never seen in my life.

"What I remember is each moment of the Argentines shouting, and the Argentines singing. When I walked back to my corner between rounds, when I stood on the apron after my victory. Incredible!"

Three months later, it was the President of Argentina, Cristina Kirchner, who announced Martinez's next fight will be a homecoming. He will fight the undefeated Murray in Estadio Jose Amalfitani, a Buenos Aires soccer stadium colloquially known as "El Fortin de Li-

Martinez shared the glory with his supporters after the Chavez fight. He and the fans will pick up where they left off when he faces Martin Murray on April 27 in Buenos Aires.
Image: Jeff Bottari-Getty

niers (The Fortress of Liniers)," so named because of its home team's impenetrable defense. The stadium is set to accommodate more than 40,000 of Martinez's countrymen.

The moment will be one of profound vindication for Martinez. He is the world's middleweight champion, and after many performances in semi-filled venues in the northeastern part of the United States, he will now fight in his nation's capital, 30 kilometers northwest of Quilmes, the town in which he was born and raised before an odyssey that took him to Spain and California and Atlantic City and Las Vegas, and finally celebrity.

"We have talked with (promoter) Lou DiBella and (manager) Sampson Lewkowicz about the idea of doing a fight with Sergio in Argentina for a couple of years," says Kery Davis, Senior Vice President of Programming at HBO Sports, which will televise Martinez-Murray. "It just turned out that the timing happened to be right after his victory over Julio Cesar Chavez Jr. this past fall. We were happy to do it. For us, we just thought, from a television standpoint, it would be a terrific spectacle to televise the fight from Sergio's hometown."

Now it is "Maravilla's" turn to be awed. He is decidedly different from the anxious person he was before Sept. 15, a man who sought to emasculate Chavez in public appearances with the Mexican's idolized father, who, from the match's announcement in June to its closing bell three months later, took the fight more personally and seriously than his lackadaisical son did.

The knee operation that resulted from the fight with Chavez is now behind him, but the experience of rehabilitation and the moment that caused it now give humility to a man unaccustomed to showing any in the ring.

"Before, when I was 20 or 25, I injured myself, and in one or two days I was fine," Martinez said about aging. "But today, even a small injury takes weeks or months to recuperate from. It is hard to accept that."

Martinez is 38 years old, small for a middleweight and more intelligent than most men. In Murray, he will face yet another middleweight larger than he is. His diminutive stature, though, is part of what makes his reign as middleweight champion enchanting to aficionados: Any challenger can hurt him. That, combined with the possibility of his growing old instantly, means every defense of his middleweight title will have suspense.

Martinez's story is one of an unusual and unnoticed ascent at a late age for a fighter, an ascent that happened after his country's experts abandoned him in prizefighting's wicked caprice. There is no telling how much longer he will endanger himself in this brutal craft, how much longer he will be capable of it, how much longer he will allow for it. So sing for him, Argentina, while you still have him. ■

THE GREATEST ARGENTINES

The 10 best fighters ever from Argentina (and 15 more).

1. CARLOS MONZON (87-3-9, 59 KOS): All-time great went undefeated the final 13 years of his career.

2. PASCUAL PEREZ (84-7-1, 57 KOS): Another all-time great held world flyweight title from 1954 to 1960.

3. NICOLINO LOCCHE (117-4-14, 14 KOS): Known as "The Untouchable" because of his sublime defensive skills.

4. SERGIO MARTINEZ (50-2-2, 28 KOS): Started late but built himself into two-division world titleholder.

5. EDUARDO LAUSSE (75-10-2, 62 KOS): Never fought for world title but beat Gene Fullmer, Kid Gavilan and Tiger Jones.

6. HORACIO ACCAVALLO (75-2-6, 34 KOS): Dominating flyweight of the 1960s retired as world titleholder.

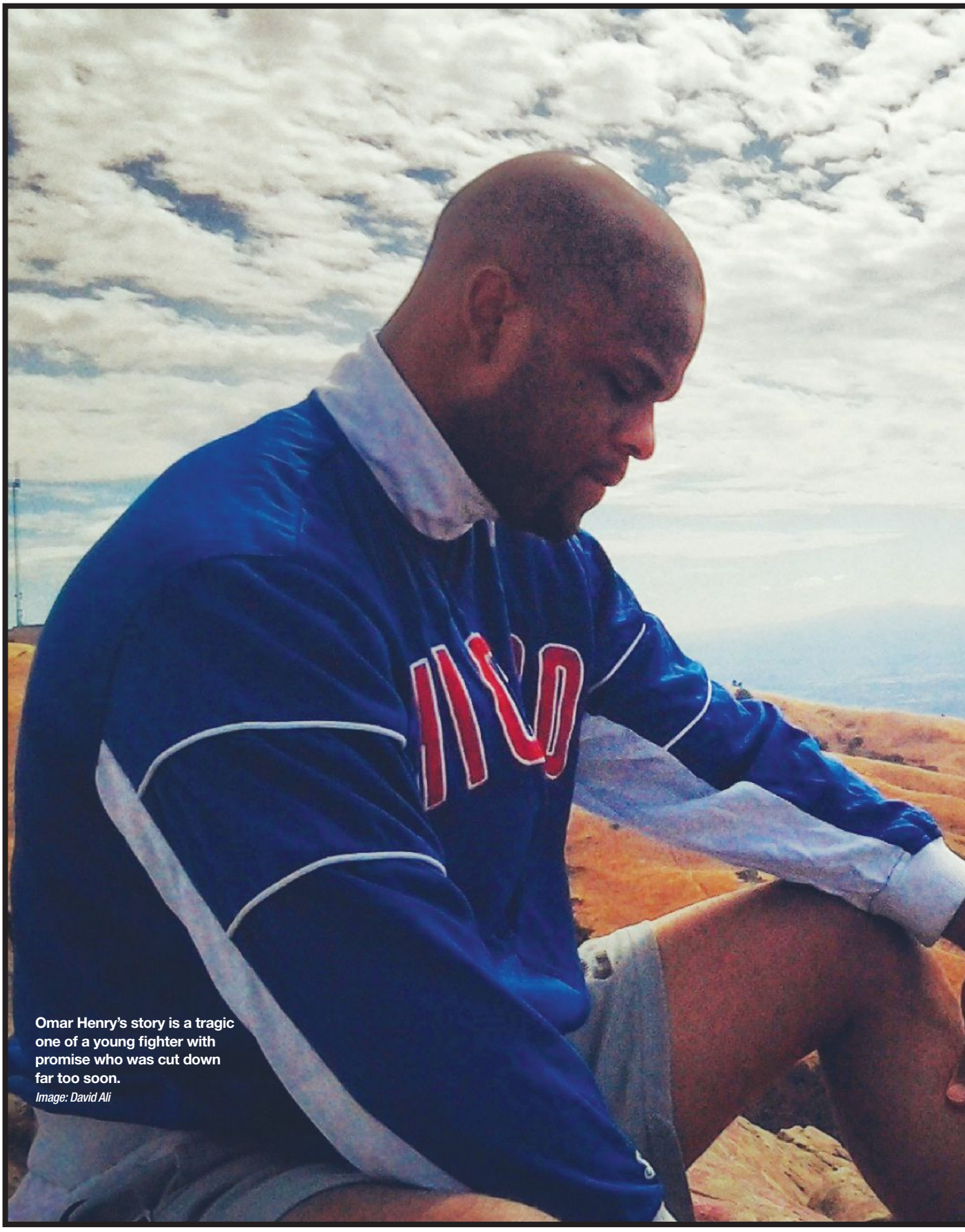
7. VICTOR GALINDEZ (55-9-4, 34 KOS): Two-time 175-pound champ made 10 successful defenses in mid-'70s.

8. OSCAR BONAVENA (58-9-1, 44 KOS): Heavyweight was competitive with top contenders during division's golden era.

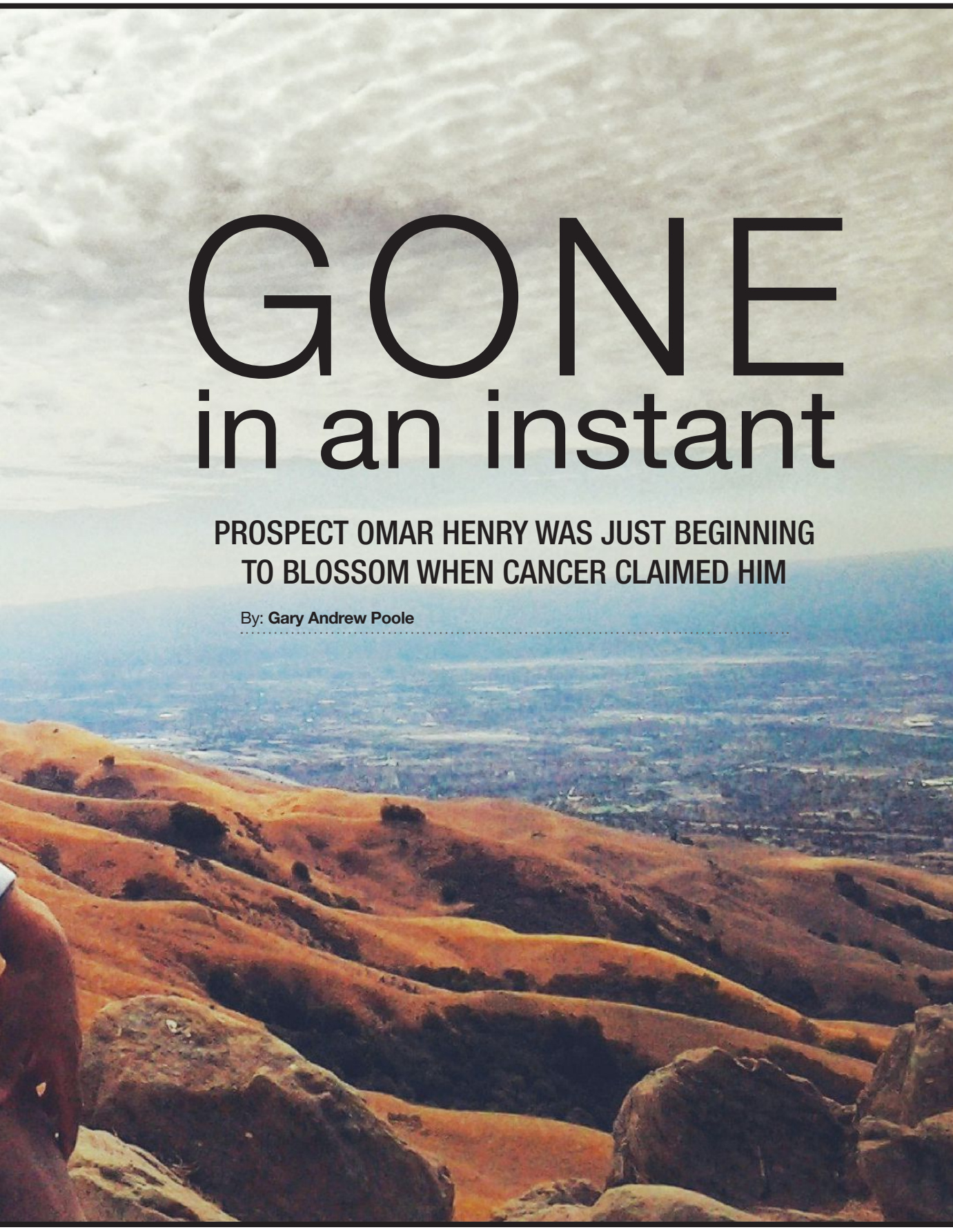
9. LUIS ANGEL FIRPO (31-4, 26 KOS): Legendary heavyweight knocked Jack Dempsey out of ring and beat Jess Willard.

10. SANTOS LACIAR (79-10-11, 31 KOS): Little man won three world titles between 1981 to 1987.

15 more (alphabetical order): Jorge Ahumada, Carlos Baldomir, Gustavo Ballas, Jose Carattoli, Jorge Castro, Juan Coggi, Hugo Corro, Jorge Fernandez, Jose Maria Gatica, Marcos Maidana, Lucas Matthysse, Julio Mocoroa, Omar Narvarez, Juan Roldan and Justo Suarez.



Omar Henry's story is a tragic one of a young fighter with promise who was cut down far too soon.
Image: David Ali



GONE in an instant

PROSPECT OMAR HENRY WAS JUST BEGINNING TO BLOSSOM WHEN CANCER CLAIMED HIM

By: **Gary Andrew Poole**

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Henry didn't try to hide his glee when he stopped Francisco Reza only 33 seconds into their fight in 2010 in Grapevine, Texas.

Omar Henry was a rising prospect. In two years, he might have been a titleholder. He might have been a lot of things. But Omar Henry, professional boxer, died on Feb. 1, 2013. He was 25.

Henry grew up on the South Side of Chicago in the "Wild 100s." It was rough but he said it made him a better person. His dad wasn't around. There were troubles at home. He rejected the gang life. He was universally described as "optimistic" and "bubbly," as a man who wanted to please.

In middle school, he dreamed of becoming a boxer. He wanted to become the next Roy Jones Jr. But nothing came of it, except he was a good shadow boxer.

When he was 16, his sister brought him to Houston to "get him back on track." She wanted to save his life. He had been "mischievous," and she wanted to teach him what it meant to be a man. Part of being a man was accepting discipline and really committing to your dreams. Sure, he wanted to be a boxer, but he had never been in a boxing gym. He couldn't afford such a luxury. Wells paid the $30 monthly fee at Savannah Boxing Club. "I spoke life into him," she said.

He became a fixture at the gym. He fell in with a group of guys who were learning the craft. Henry had started late. They took him in. They would come to call themselves the "Bash Brothers" because they sparred with such naked intensity.

Henry was part African-American, part Puerto Rican. He modeled his style after Miguel Cotto. He had an amateur record of 60-5. At age 20, he was a quarterfinalist in the 2007 National Golden Gloves.

In 2008 he turned pro, knocking out Terence Anderson at 1:15 of the first round. He won his next nine of 11 fights by first round knockout. He would jump on his opponents with blistering aggression. He was almost too efficient. He entered that limbo of a boxer's career in which he doesn't have much of a name but insiders fear him enough that they don't want to face him.

He wasn't fighting very much, though. Outsiders started questioning his desire. He seemed more interested in celebrity than

boxing. Even with only modest success, he was starting to have the childhood he had never had. But people who knew him say he never seemed to fall into the typical boxer traps of too much, too fast. He had girlfriends. Plural. Mention the topic to his friends and they laugh. But he was known as a clean living guy. "Junk food was his only vice," said David Ali, his trainer of the last 2½ years. Ali considered Henry to be his little brother. He wasn't perfect (Ali attributes Henry's lack of polish to his fatherless upbringing) and Ali sought to teach him about how to be a man. "He burnt bridges with me, with his manager. It goes back to his childhood. But sometimes a man needs another man to guide and … forgive him."

Henry fought as a junior middleweight. He looked like a mini Mike Tyson—a low center of gravity, skinny calves, a thick neck and a 24-inch waist.

He sparred with champions: Manny Pacquiao and Floyd Mayweather Jr. He could keep up with them. During these sessions, his trainer would whisper sternly, "Hold back your pop!" They were getting paid to spar, not beat the confidence out of champions. They were bit players in the sport, and they couldn't afford to make enemies.

Henry would end up having 12 professional fights. He was undefeated with nine knockouts. Twelve fights didn't give anyone much to go on. The cognoscenti believed he was only a 4-6 round fighter. To prove them wrong, Henry let his fight with Tyrone Selders go 10 rounds. If you looked closely enough, he even helped Selders up in one round. Henry won a unanimous decision. It was June 2012.

The politics of the sport had held him back, say some. But he was trying to be patient. He had moved from one promotion company to another one. But he was working his way up. He flirted with becoming an MMA fighter, but his heart was in boxing. Whether he would become a contender or fall away, he was soon to get a chance at breaking out. He just had to be patient. Just hang in there a little longer.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Henry had a lot of pop in his punches. He stopped nine of his 12 opponents, including Reza. Eight of his opponents fell in the first round.

"He was on the brink … the casual fan hadn't seen it for themselves, but Omar was, literally, the boxer that comes once every 15 years," said Ali, whose plan was to develop Henry for a long career.

Henry was something of an enigma. He was a modern sort of fighter. He had only had 12 fights (none on television), but he had more than 170,000 Twitter followers. He would post photos of himself with celebrities and so there was an outsized—maybe even fictitiously outsized—celebrity around him. He knew it. He told friends he knew it. He noticed how Mayweather created his character. It was fun. And it was part of building a career. Some of his friends would laugh about it. They knew him. They saw him at the gym wearing medical scrubs. To make ends meet, Henry had worked at a nursing home. He wanted to own one someday. He wanted to help people who were too weak to help themselves.

Showtime came calling. Gordon Hall, vice president and executive producer of Shobox: The New Generation, sought him out. Shobox features up and coming prospects. "I knew he was an all action fighter; he was a fast-handed aggressive fighter," said Hall. They wanted him to fight Juan Cabrera, a two-time Olympian who was undefeated. The fight, scheduled for Nov. 16, 2012, would match two undefeated fighters who hadn't been tested. "I'm the future of boxing," Henry boasted with a grin. But word started coming from Henry's camp that he was

having trouble making weight. Showtime executives didn't know what that meant. Was he training properly? Was he not prepared? A week from the fight, word came out that Omar wasn't feeling well. This was the shot he had dreamed about, the shot that would expose him to a national audience. And he wasn't feeling well? Everyone was trying to read between the lines. Said Gordon: "I thought he was someone who could go to the next level. He had a lot of future in the sport, a prospect that would turn into a contender."

No one knew what to believe. He had gone from the peak of athleticism to something else entirely. Just a few days before the fight, Henry was diagnosed with Stage 4 gall bladder cancer.

He didn't have health insurance. He wanted to get his care at the highly-respected MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. But there was no money. Boxers don't have health insurance.

Is there anything that we can learn from Omar Henry's demise? There is no reason to make it a cause, but it raises questions: Does the boxing community truly take care of its own? Is a 10-count for Omar Henry at the next big fight the only thing we will remember about him? Or should his death raise the question of how boxing does—or doesn't—take care of its own? Its practioners are the most vulnerable of all athletes. They deserve better.

Henry ended up back in Chicago at Mercy Hospital. In the middle of winter. He hated the cold. Privately, he said he would like to be buried in Puerto Rico. Somewhere warm. But there was no money. He suffered. "I really wondered, why this way?" asked Ali. Henry turned to Facebook to express himself to his fans. He said he hoped to live to celebrate his 26th birthday on Feb. 8. His sister, Shonda Wells, the woman who had given him boxing as a gift, would rub his back. During the last two days of his life on Earth, he cried. He couldn't talk. The pain medication would wear off, and she would soothe him with warm blankets. "He didn't deserve it," she said, "God bless his soul." He lost 50 pounds. His head swayed like an infant child. He looked pregnant, and his legs were swollen to the size of tires. "My kid was a fighter; this was the fight of his life," said Ali. "He gained wisdom in those last two weeks. For the next life." The night before he died, he raised himself up, he made a fist, and then he fell back into the bed, never to move again.

At 6:35 a.m., on Feb. 1, 2013, Omar Henry was dead. ■

Henry, only 25 when he died, had the build of a fighter who could inflict considerable damage.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

BlackBerry Torch.

4Go-getters

4Great fights

The first-ever 4G BlackBerry® Torch.™
Only from AT&T.

Rethink Possible®

FREE SHIPPING | 1.866.MOBILITY – ATT.COM/TORCH

4G speeds delivered by HSPA+ with enhanced backhaul. Available in limited areas. Availability increasing with ongoing backhaul deployment. Requires 4G device. Learn more at att.com/network.

BlackBerry®, RIM®, Research In Motion®, and related trademarks, names, and logos are the property of Research In Motion Limited and are registered and/or used in the U.S. and countries around the world. Used under license from Research In Motion Limited. Screen images simulated. ©2011 AT&T Intellectual Property. Service provided by AT&T Mobility. All rights reserved. AT&T and the AT&T logo are trademarks of AT&T Intellectual Property. All other marks contained herein are the property of their respective owners.

Zou Shiming has the resume and following to make a name for himself in China and beyond.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

START OF SOMETHING BIG?

OLYMPIC STAR ZOU SHIMING IS THE FIRST CHINESE BOXER WITH THE POTENTIAL TO BE A MAJOR PLAYER

By: **Tim Smith**

It is not often that the boxing world gets to witness the emergence of a cultural icon, particularly one who could potentially represent the hopes and aspirations of a billion and a half people.

Perhaps that is why promoter Bob Arum can hardly contain his excitement when the subject of Zou Shiming comes up. Zou is the first Chinese boxer to win Olympic medals – a bronze at the 2004 Athens Games and golds at both the 2008 Beijing and 2012 London Games. Arum signed him to a promotional contract in February and hopes it will open a golden gateway to Chinese boxing.

"All I know is there are 1.4 billion Chinese and 100 million more around the world and this guy has struck a chord with all of them," Arum said.

After China lifted a 33-year ban on boxing and fielded an Olympic team for the 1992 Barcelona Games, it was only a matter of time before a U.S. promoter jumped into the rising tide of interest in the sport there.

Zou's decision to turn pro and sign with an America promoter coincides with an economic awakening in China – a communist country – and a burgeoning consumer market that has a growing appetite for western products, entertainment and sports.

Arum was not even sure who Zou was until he got a phone call from an agent representing the boxer asking if the Las Vegas-based promoter was willing to promote a 31-year-old, 108-pound Chinese amateur looking to turn pro.

"I said, 'What the hell are we going to do with a 108-pounder?'" Arum said.

Then he did some homework, calling Robert Goldstein, president of the Venetian Resort-Hotel-Casino in Las Vegas who also oversees the Venetian's property in Macau, to find out whether any of his people in China had heard of Zou.

"Rob called me back and said, 'My people over there are negative about everything, but when I mentioned this kid they went crazy. Get him no matter what you have to do,'" Arum said.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Zou has enlisted Freddie Roach, trainer of another famous Asian boxer, to guide his development as a pro.

Arum signed Zou and is giving him what he calls "a record, high six-figure purse for a four-round debut." And like all bets, this one could pay off big or it could go bust. Zou will make his pro debut in Macau, China's version of Las Vegas, on April 6.

Dino Duva has worked with the Chinese national boxing team since 2008, setting up training camps in China and in the U.S. and consulting with the Chinese Boxing Federation. He has watched Zou emerge as a top-flight amateur and two-time Olympic gold medal winner.

"He's a very good technical boxer, a very well-conditioned boxer," Duva said. "I don't know how he'll be as a professional because he's 31 years old. He's going to be fighting in a division where he's going to have to fight some very good boxers from Mexico and Thailand."

Much will depend upon whether Zou can successfully make the transition from amateur to professional in a short period of time. To help ease that transition, Arum has entrusted Zou's education to trainers Freddie Roach and Miguel Diaz.

Roach has been credited with turning Manny Pacquiao into a big-punching, all-action, pay-per-view attraction. Before his most recent KO loss to nemesis Juan Manuel Marquez, Pacquiao had been dubbed the "Mexicutioner" because of how well he handled the style of Mexican boxers. If anyone can help Arum turn Zou into box office gold it's Roach.

"He's a very good talent with a good amateur background," Roach said. "He knows how to fight and that's a good thing. I know people are saying that he doesn't have punching power, but I've found that he has surprising punching power in both hands. And he has good defense. He's a complete fighter."

Regardless, Roach will have to fast-track Zou's education to get him up to the speed necessary to become a megastar like Pacquiao. Boxers aren't fine wine. They don't get better with age.

"He's a fast learner like Manny. He picks up on things quickly, especially when you're explaining technical moves," Roach said. "You just have to show it to him one time and he's got it and he's ready to move on."

Zou, speaking through a translator, said he is confident that Roach can help him succeed as a pro.

"Freddie has a lot of professional experience and he really knows Asian boxers," Zou said. "You can see that with how he works with Manny Pacquiao. I believe, with Freddie's help, I will adapt to the professional style very fast. He has taught me a lot in the brief time that I've worked with him."

After Arum signed Zou, he brought him to Las Vegas and set him up at the Palazzo Hotel to help create a buzz designed to travel back to the Venetian-Macau and drive excitement and ticket sales. They erected a gym at the hotel

and later Zou worked out at the Top Rank Gym in Las Vegas before moving to Roach's Wild Card Boxing Club in Hollywood, Calif.

Zou, who came over with his wife, went from the Hollywood version of America in Las Vegas to the real Hollywood in about three weeks.

"In Las Vegas it was what you saw from TV. It wasn't like real life," he said. "But in Los Angeles I believe it will be quite different. More of a stable life, going to work every day with Freddie."

Wherever he went, Zou said the people he encountered had a real passion for boxing. He's aware that he will attract a lot of attention – from American boxing fans who want to see if he's the next Pacquiao and from fans in China who want to see if he's the next Yao Ming, the former Houston Rockets star. But he said he doesn't feel any additional pressure to be successful.

"I can't say now what will happen, but I hope I can do a good job and become a pioneer," Zou said. "I don't mind being an example if that's what it takes."

The Macau card will accomplish that in part, as live pro boxing in China is sketchy at best. Laila Ali shared a card with heavyweight Andrew Golota in Chengdu in 2000. Promoter Don King wanted to stage the third heavyweight championship match between Evander Holyfield and John Ruiz in Guangzhou in 2001, but it was called off when Ruiz suffered a neck injury.

Boxing itself has a spotty history in China. It got its start in the 1920s as foreign sailors in port cities like Shanghai and Guangzhou organized bouts between locals. Those matches were conducted without government approval or supervision. In 1959 China dropped the sport from its first National Games, and after a boxer died from blows he took in

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Zou was unveiled to the U.S. public amid great fanfare in Las Vegas.

ZOU SHIMING
THE ESSENTIALS

AGE: 31
HOMETOWN: Zunyi, China
WEIGHT CLASS: Junior flyweight
TRAINER: Freddie Roach
PROMOTER: Top Rank
ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Three-time Olympic medalist (bronze in 2004, gold in 2008 and 2012). Also won three world amateur titles.
FIRST PRO BOUT: April 6, 2013 at the Venetian Casino & Resort in Macau (China). No opponent has been selected.

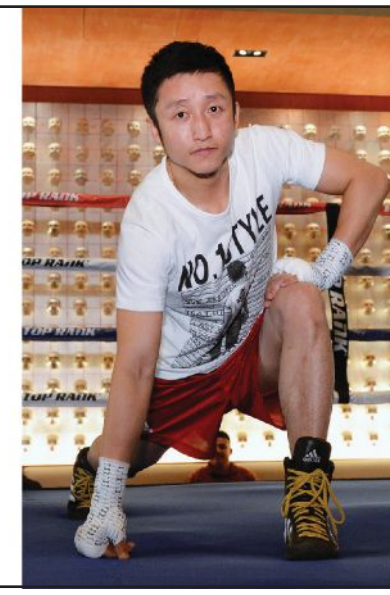


Image: Naoki Fukuda

Zou has already gotten to work in hopes of replicating his amateur success in the professional ranks.

the ring, Chairman Mao Tse-tung banned boxing and all other competitive sports as part of his Cultural Revolution in 1966.

In 1979, Muhammad Ali visited Deng Xiaoping, the head of the Communist Party, at his compound housing China's top leaders. The picture of Ali hugging Deng went viral for that era and a thaw began. Zou said he grew up watching tapes of Ali fights on television, and Ali became his favorite sports idol.

In the 1980s Chinese boxers began training again, but without gloves or heavy bags. The government put together a team for the 1992 Games at Barcelona with little hope of winning a medal.

It wasn't until the 2004 Athens Games that they succeeded when Zou took bronze. Four years later at the Beijing Games he took the gold, and did it again at the 2012 London Games.

"He really is the face of Chinese boxing," Duva said. "I don't think he's at that popularity level (of Yao Ming), but you have to realize that boxing was non-existent 10 years ago. In the last two or three Olympic cycles the Chinese team has done well. The people, the government and the TV network in China (CCTV) are just now paying attention. It's only a matter of time that the mass population will start following it."

No matter how successful he becomes, Zou would not be the first Chinese boxer to win a world championship. That historic honor goes to Xiong Zhao Zhong, who beat Javier Martinez Resendiz for the World Boxing Council strawweight title last Nov. 24. But Xiong did not receive the attention that Zou has received, because he was not closely associated with the Chinese national team.

Arum said there were 100 media outlets on hand when he announced Zou's signing in Beijing. He expects Zou's pro debut at the Venetian in Macau to be a major event, complete with ring announcer Michael Buffer doing an introduction in Mandarin.

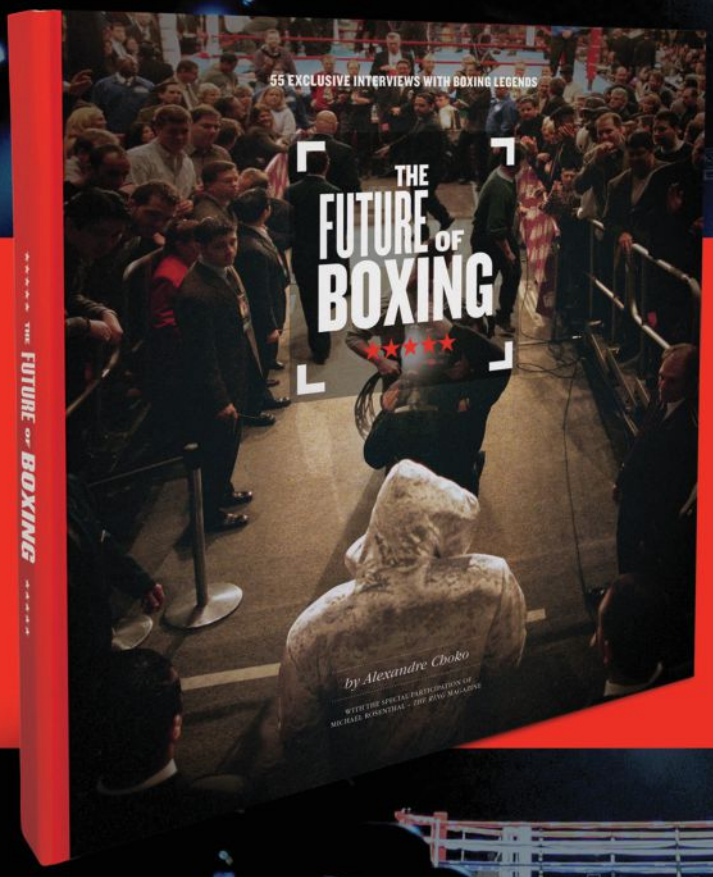
"The TV show that will include the fight will have the highest number of homes available to ever watch a boxing show and that's 500 million homes," Arum said.

An estimated 100 million people in the U.S. watched the most recent Super Bowl, perennially the highest-rated TV show in America.

"I'm telling you, this is big," Arum said. "This kid is really the goods." ■

AVAILABLE NOW!

55 EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH BOXING LEGENDS



Together for the first time in one extraordinary book . . .

MIKE TYSON • SUGAR RAY LEONARD
ROBERTO DURAN • JULIO CÉSAR CHÀVEZ
OSCAR DE LA HOYA • ROY JONES JR.
GEORGE FOREMAN • JAKE LAMOTTA
VITALI KLITSCHKO • AND MANY MORE

★★★★★

324-page • 12 x 12 inch book with more than 600 amazing photos.

Boxing Legends Talk about the Sport They Love—Its Past, Present, and Future

With the history of the sport by Michael Rosenthal – *The Ring Magazine*.

THE FUTURE OF BOXING
★★★★★

Special price for Ring readers

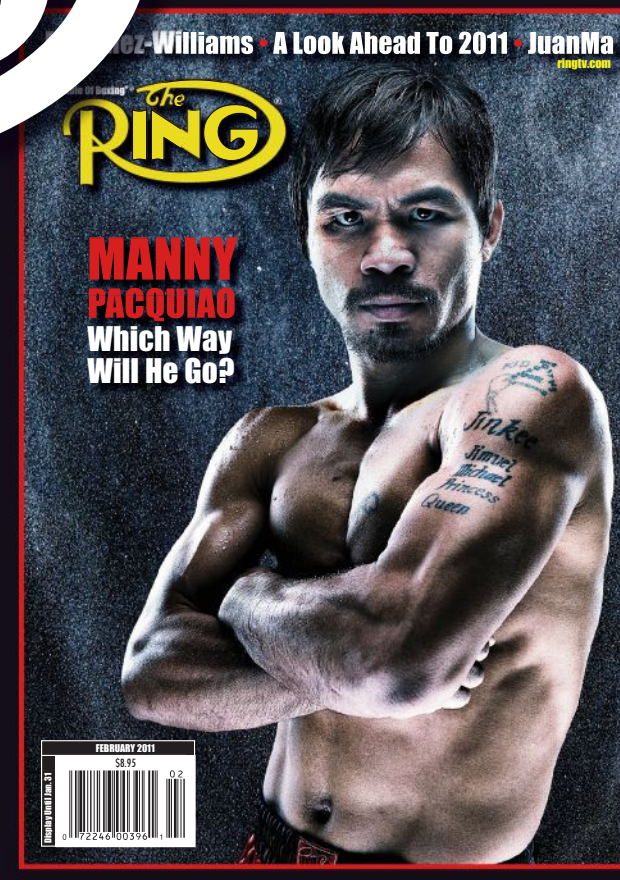
Go to **www.futureofboxing.com** and enter the promo code **TheRingFOB** to order your copy of The Future of Boxing at the very special price for *Ring* readers of $44.95 (normal retail price $75). **A must for every boxing fan!**

★★★★★

Please visit our website for more information.

The Bible of Boxing® since 1922!

The RING®



SUBSCRIBE AND SAVE AS MUCH AS 70%

Please Check Off The One You Wish To Order:

Save Over 35% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ **Six Issues of The Ring for $33.70*** 610300

Save Over 50% Off Newsstand Price!

☐ **One Year of The Ring for $53.70*** 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $29.95 value)!

SUPER SAVER—Over 60% Off Newsstand!

☐ **Two Years of The Ring for $78.70*** 610300

Plus The Ring Digital Edition for Free (A $59.90 value)!

DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION—Over 70% Off Newsstand!

☐ **One Year of The Ring Digital Edition for $29.95**

MAIL TO: Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC
P.O. Box 433122, Palm Coast, FL 32164-3122

TELEPHONE: 1-800-846-6438

E-MAIL: thering@emailcustomerservice.com

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to Sports & Entertainment Publications LLC)
☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Card #__ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __ __

Expiration Date: ___/___ (MO/YR) __ __ __ (3-DIGIT SECURITY CODE)

Signature:_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT.____

CITY_____STATE_____ZIP_____

E-MAIL_____
(necessary for digital subscription)

TELEPHONE_____

*For Canada and Mexico: $52.50 for 6 issues; $86.70 for one year; $127.10 for two years. All other countries: $81 for 6 issues; $143.70 for one year; $210.60 for two years. International money orders only in U.S. funds only. Airmail shipping only outside the U.S. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first magazine. Offer expires December 31, 2013

Image: Simon Dawson-Associated Press

Mikkel Kessler (left) and Carl Froch gave us a rousing show in 2010, one reason fans are so excited about the rematch.

FROCH-KESSLER, PART II

By: **Gareth A Davies,**
***The Telegraph*, London**

Carl Froch has missed out on being a populist figure in British life, crossover stardom having eluded him. His coming of age fight with Joe Calzaghe, which would have raised him in the estimation of the British public, never came. It was a case of sliding doors into different worlds.

Yet he is held in high esteem by so many within the sporting world, revered as a man's man whose fighting spirit belongs to a bygone age.

Froch against Kessler has begun to capture the imagination. There was a "big fight" feel when the two men came together early in February at the O2 Arena, in East London's Docklands. These are two men willing to go to war, not flit around the margins.

I first clapped eyes on Froch in a multi-nation tournament at St. Georges Hall in Liverpool back in 2000, when he was still an amateur. The venue has an amazing setting, both visually and acoustically. Neoclassical in design and built in the mid-19th century, the tiled floor reverberates with every shot and thud landed. Amateur contests have abounded there.

That night Froch was fighting at middleweight, still unsure of his style and at the time not the confident man he is today. He won the bout on points that night, but I can remember his lament in describing his disappointment after failing to qualify for the Sydney Olympics. But the next year he would go on to win a bronze medal at the World Amateur Championships in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

U.K. TOP 10

Gareth A Davies' monthly pound-for-pound list for British boxers.

1. **CARL FROCH**
2. **AMIR KHAN**
3. **DAVID HAYE**
4. **RICKY BURNS**
5. **KELL BROOK**
6. **NATHAN CLEVERLY**
7. **CARL FRAMPTON**
8. **TYSON FURY**
9. **DAVID PRICE**
10. **SCOTT QUIGG**

From there, as a young professional, he was training in the Lennox Lewis Centre in Hackney, north London.

Froch dormed there, training and sleeping in the vast, eerily empty complex with a group of Eastern European boxers – people like the giant Georgi Kandelaki, who looked like he'd been cut straight from the rock of a mountainside in Georgia. Kandelaki fought almost his entire, unbeaten 24-fight career in England. The place was like a training home for misfits.

The training area was accessed by a side door; the outside of the building was covered in tumbleweeds.

It was a strange, almost prison-like existence there. Froch didn't like London particularly, but he knew he needed to be there. He missed his native Nottingham. He pounded London's streets before dawn and the heavy bag in the afternoons. It was like the final part of his graduation.

Froch's 12st (168-pound) unification fight with Mikkel Kessler at the O2 Arena on May 25 – a rematch of their thrilling 12-round war in 2010 – has real resonance. The contest will be Sky Box Office's first pay-per-view boxing event since the David Haye-Wladimir Klitschko debacle.

The litmus test for the popularity of what now promises to be a blockbuster between the IBF and WBA titleholders, who have between them eight world titles, came when the 17,000 seats sold out within a few hours of going on sale.

The protagonists will share a purse of just under 5 million pounds (about $7.7 million).

Froch (30-2, 22 KOs) was beaten on points in their first meeting in Denmark in 2010 – 113-115, 112-116 and 111-117 on the judges' cards – but five-time world champion Kessler (46-2, 35 KOs) revealed that an empathy he felt for the British fighter came from his own chagrin in 2007.

Image: Scott Heavey-Getty

The 17,000 seats for Kessler-Froch II sold out within a few hours of going on sale.

"I made my mind up to fight Carl again because I never got my rematch with Joe Calzaghe, which made me depressed for a time," he mused. Kessler had fought Calzaghe in front of 50,000 fans at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff, one of the great nights in British boxing. We trudged out onto the crowded streets of the capital city of Wales at 4 a.m., inspired by the combat.

"After the fight, Calzaghe went to the United States, had two more contests with Bernard Hopkins and Roy Jones, and then he quit forever," Kessler said.

"I know how Carl felt when he lost to me. It was his first loss. The first loss in my career was to Joe Calzaghe. The first fight with Carl a close fight, and a very good fight. What I like about Carl is that he steps in there to fight with you, plain and simple. Apart from me, I think he is the best pure fighter in the world."

Froch's grand plan is to defeat Kessler and then take on Andre Ward in a rematch, though both Briton and Dane united in bemoaning the Californian's hit-and-hold, slip-and-slide style.

"This is not just a career defining fight, it's the most important fight I'm ever going to be involved in," Froch said. "I'm a better fighter than when we met three years ago. Kessler will be difficult to stop, but I know I can hurt him. He looked like the Elephant Man the last time we fought, and although he won, he retired for a while."

Kessler's respect for his British foe runs deep.

"I think me and Carl is one of the great matchups in the world, not like Andre Ward or Bernard Hopkins, who don't really come to fight."

"I'd rather have fight number three against Carl, even if I win the second fight, than fight Ward again. It's not on my wish list. I lost to him once, but he doesn't want to come out of the U.S. He wants to fight in Oakland, he wants to have his neighbor as the referee and his sister as the judge."

Image: John Gichigi-Getty

Martin Murray believes Amir Khan (left) would've been better off sticking with trainer Oliver Harrison (right), who works with Murray.

"When you ask the fans what's the best fight out there, the fight they want to see, it's with Carl Froch. He has been in a lot of hard fights but he's still strong and he's still there. You could see in his last fight he's not worn down. He's there and he's ready."

"Ward is a world champion, yes, but he holds and clinches. He's very good, very fast, but in a real fight, he wouldn't have a chance."

When the protagonists respect each other in such a way and have committed to another war, there is little need for the dark arts or smack talk.

Instead, just gentle teasing from Kessler, who held a British passport until he was 16 and whose mother Ann is originally from Salisbury, a cathedral city. The Dane joked that he is "more English than Froch" after pointing out that the Nottingham fighter's paternal side is from Poland.

Kessler is a huge star in Denmark, with 75 percent of the 5 million television audience in that country regularly watching him. His promoter, Kalle Sauerland, reckons 5,000 Danes will travel to London to support their man. It should be brutal artistry at its best.

• • • • • • • • •

I spent an intriguing evening at the home of middleweight Martin Murray recently. He spoke about his troubled past, as a tearaway teenager, which saw him complete three stints in prison, but was saved by the daily discipline of the gym.

He had an interesting theory on Amir Khan. Murray is trained by Oliver Harrison in Salford, a suburb of Manchester. Had Khan stayed with trainer Harrison, Murray reckons he'd still be unbeaten.

"I think Amir Khan made a mistake in leaving Oliver," he said. "If he hadn't made that decision, I'm convinced he would be exactly where he is now without the defeats. I really believe that."

Why? "Because Oliver works on everything. I couldn't tell you one thing he doesn't work on. He covers everything: the opponent, improving defense and attack but also looking in on what he thinks an opponent will do to beat you. He's very good at tactics, at nailing a fight down."

"He's just an unbelievable trainer. He was spot on against Felix Sturm, and we believe I won that fight, in spite of it being scored a draw."

They will need to get those tactics on point when he meets Sergio Martinez for the WBC middleweight title on April 27 in Buenos Aires.

Hours earlier, I'd spent the afternoon with Ricky Hatton at his gym 30 miles away from Murray's house, in a quiet suburban cul-de-

Image: Lawrence Lustig-MatchroomSport

Carl Frampton (left) proved he's one to watch with his ninth-round knockout of rugged Kiko Martinez on Feb. 9 in Northern Ireland.

sac of Warrington.

Hatton had told me he has a good feeling about this contest, and that Murray has a vibe about him which reminded Hatton of his mood before he took on and defeated Kostya Tszyu in Manchester in the defining moment of his career. "He is not fazed by Martinez," Hatton said, "thinks he's not special. That's exactly how I felt before I fought Kostya."

• • • • • • • • •

I'm told by those close to David Haye that he is looking less likely to fight again as every day passes, and as such, Froch currently carries the baton as the best in Britain.

But a rising fighter signaled himself as a major prospect on Feb. 9 in Belfast. Carl Frampton, the man they call 'The Jackal,' dealt with dangerous Spaniard Kiko Martinez with aplomb.

Apart from being caught on the counter by the heavy-handed champion – which aptly demonstrated that Frampton has a great chin – he showed great movement, stuck to his game plan and when it counted put Martinez away for the first time in his career with a chopping right hand to become European junior featherweight champion.

The protégé of former world champion Barry McGuigan sailed through the bout with flying colors, moving intelligently and showing that after 16 fights unbeaten he is on his way to the elite class. He also has an intriguing backstory: a Protestant with a Catholic fiancée in an area once riven by a sectarian divide.

It is almost 28 years since McGuigan defeated Eusebio Pedroza at a football stadium in West London, replete with 27,000 spectators, to become featherweight champion of the world.

We should watch Frampton's emergence with interest. Cheers. ■

Image: Phil Soto

A traveling exhibit of Irish boxing memorabilia includes material on Muhammad Ali, who has Irish ancestry.

AYE, A PROUD TRADITION

TRAVELING EXHIBIT HIGHLIGHTS IRELAND'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO BOXING

By: **Norm Frauenheim**

Boxing's Irish accent is heard throughout tales full of legend, exaggeration, showmanship, bare knuckles, busted noses, broken hearts, whiskey, weathered gloves and even a mummified arm. It's a great story. It belongs in a museum. And that's where it is these days in Phoenix at the McClelland Irish Library.

Curator James Houlihan of New York pulled memorabilia, posters and anecdotes out of the pubs and into a traveling exhibit called The Fighting Irishmen: Celebrating Celtic Prizefighters 1820-Present. It started in New York. It stopped in Boston, then Ulster, Dublin and Limerick. It will be in Phoenix through May 31.

Among the collection — 1,000 pieces valued at over $340,000 – there is John L. Sullivan's coat. How that coat survived more than a century of wear, tear and mothballs is anybody's guess. But it's there, fur intact and looking as if a Sullivan descendant could reach in behind the glass, put it on and wear it for another century.

Sullivan's coat is not far from an item that looks as if it belongs in the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History: a mummified right arm. It used to belong to Dan Donnelly, Ireland's first heavyweight champ.

The exhibit starts with Donnelly. Actually, it starts when he died in 1820. Within days after last rites, grave robbers stole Donnelly's body from a Dublin cemetery named — no kidding — Bully's Acre. The body was reportedly sold to a surgeon who studied cadavers. We're not sure what happened to the rest of Donnelly, but the arm lived on. Like today's exhibit, it traveled as part of a circus before it wound up in a pub, which is where it reportedly spent a lot of time when it was still with Donnelly.

An extended index finger on the Donnelly arm seems to point around the corner and to an exhibit devoted to Muhammad Ali. Ali traces his Irish ancestry to a great-grandfather, Abe Grady, who was from Ennis in County Clare. Ali, who in 1972 beat Al "Blue" Lewis in Dublin, has a home in Phoenix. Phoenix and Ennis are sister cities. A cliché as old as Guinness says there's a little Irish in everybody. Everywhere, too. These days, it's in Phoenix. ■

Daniel Geale (right) avenged an earlier defeat by outpointing Anthony Mundine in a heated matchup.
Image: Matt King-Getty

DANIEL GEALE UD 12
ANTHONY MUNDINE

DATE: JAN. 30, 2013
SITE: SYDNEY
DIVISION: MIDDLEWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: GEALE 159¾; MUNDINE 158½
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): GEALE NO. 1; MUNDINE UNRATED
NETWORK: PPV (AUSTRALIA ONLY)

Anthony Mundine delivered insults and did the talking. He's still talking. But Danny Geale landed most of the punches for a decision that seemed tame after Mundine tried to turn the fight into a political stage for Australia's treatment of Aborigines.

The rematch of Mundine's 2009 split decision over Geale will be remembered more for what was said than what happened throughout 12 rounds as methodical as they were forgettable. Geale (29-1, 15 knockouts) did what he had to. Mundine (44-5, 26 KOs) said whatever he wanted to. It was unanimous, on the cards for Geale and for the outrage caused by Mundine.

In the ring, at least, it was an Aboriginal victory. Both Geale and Mundine are of Aboriginal descent. But Mundine, whose trash-talk spared neither Australia's white population nor his own, questioned Geale's Aboriginal heritage by insulting his wife, Sheena, and his birthplace, Tasmania.

"He's got a white woman, he's got white kids," Mundine said at a news conference.

Mundine also looked south and found another target in Tasmania, where he managed to insult everybody on the island but the devils.

"I thought they wiped all the Aborigines from Tasmania out," Mundine said.

Criticism from both white and Aboriginal communities soon followed. Mundine tried to make amends. He apologized. But damage was done to whatever good will there was for the former rugby star.

"It's disappointing," said Geale, who entered the ring with the Aussie flag draped over a shoulder. "I wish I had a dollar for every time I said there was something disappointing when I'm speaking about Anthony Mundine."

Mundine threatened to protest during the Aussie national anthem by turning his back on the flag and/or sitting down in the ring. He said Geale didn't deserve to wear the Aboriginal flag on his trunks. Somehow, Mundine forgot to say that Oscar De La Hoya wasn't a true Mexican warrior. De La Hoya used those words from Fernando Vargas for motivation in one of his defining victories.

Mundine didn't protest. Didn't punch much either. Geale outworked him for a 117-111, 117-111, 116-112 victory.

According to punch stats, Geale threw 690 punches and landed 208. Mundine threw 646 and landed 141. Mundine complained – surprise, surprise – that he was robbed. His punches were heavier, he said. But the numbers said something else. Geale threw 386 power shots, landed 147. Mundine threw 229, landed 71.

"People who did the recent stats," Mundine said, "they are not fans of mine."

– Norm Frauenheim

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Adrien Broner (right) put Gavin Rees down twice before their fight was mercifully stopped in the fifth round.

ADRIEN BRONER TKO 5
GAVIN REES

DATE: FEB. 16, 2013
SITE: BOARDWALK HALL, ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.
DIVISION: LIGHTWEIGHT
WEIGHTS: BRONER 134 ½; REES 134.5
RING RATING (GOING INTO FIGHT): BRONER NO. 1; REES NO. 6
NETWORK: HBO

Adrien Broner, you have a problem and it's not your nickname. It's your opponents.

Gavin Rees was just the latest in a roster of fall guys who are beginning to look a lot like the Washington Generals. In fact, the Generals' chances at beating the Harlem Globetrotters might be better than any chance any lightweight has against Broner.

That's how one-sided Broner's slam-dunk of the 135-pound division has become. It's not quite laughable. Not yet, anyway. But it's getting there at a fast-break pace.

It's hard not to be entertained by Broner. He's having fun. He's a little off-beat. His speed and power are a spellbinding combination. He turns a post-fight interview into a stand-up routine.

"I'm a legal bank robber," Broner (26-0, 22 KOs) told HBO after he battered Rees (37-2-1, 18 KOs) around the ring like some sort of prop. "I just robbed a bank tonight."

Yeah, Broner is a good show. But without a challenge, it's in danger of losing as many fans as it attracts. Maybe that challenge awaits Broner at 140 pounds, against Danny Garcia or Amir Khan or Lucas Matthysse. It sure wasn't there against Rees.

In his first 135-pound title defense since he blew away Antonio DeMarco in his lightweight debut in November, the former 130-pound champion warmed up for a couple rounds and then uncorked an assault that resembled target practice.

In the third, Broner landed a blinding series of blows. It was called an eight-punch combo. No kidding. No matter how often you count them, eight is an astonishing number. But Broner threw them in about the time it takes most fighters to throw three.

In the fourth, he dropped Rees with a right uppercut that landed flush. Somehow Rees, a tough Welshman, survived. Rees' trainer Gary Lockett, a former middleweight, was ready to surrender then.

In the fifth, Lockett did.

First, Broner landed a left hook to the body that left Rees on his knees and without a prayer. Then, Broner followed up with a succession of punches for which Rees had no defense. With one second left in the round, Lockett had no option. He threw in the towel, which is what Broner will see more of if he doesn't see it as time to move up in a bid to prove he has pound-for-pound credentials.

– Norm Frauenheim

Demetrius Andrade (right) shut out capable Freddy Hernandez in an impressive performance.
Image: Tom Casino-Showtime

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE UD 10 FREDDY HERNANDEZ
JAN. 25, HUNTINGTON, N.Y. (SHOWTIME)

One of the brightest prospects in the sport showed off new tricks in his first fight under trainer Virgil Hunter, as Demetrius Andrade shut out Freddy Hernandez on Sho-Box: The New Generation. All three judges had the same score: 100-89.

The 2008 Olympian easily outboxed the 14-1 underdog, using his quickness and range to befuddle the junior middleweight veteran.

Andrade dropped Hernandez (30-3, 20 KOs) in Round 6. And he attempted to close the show in the waning seconds of Round 9, badly stunning his game foe with a right uppercut, but Hernandez survived to the final bell.

Andrade could get a title shot in 2013. The quality sparring he receives in Hunter's gym in Oakland, Calif., should serve him well.

JERMELL CHARLO KO 8 HARRY JOE YORGEY
JAN. 26, LAS VEGAS (SHOWTIME)

Rising junior middleweight prospect Jermell Charlo made the best of his Showtime Championship Boxing debut, stopping veteran Harry Joe Yorgey in eight rounds.

Charlo (20-0, 10 KOs) dominated every round, dishing out fearful punishment, until Yorgey could take no more. The end came when Charlo landed a right that sent Yorgey to a knee, the position he was in when referee Kenny Bayless reached the count of 10 at 1:09.

Charlo has knocked out three of his past four opponents. The Houston fighter, only 22, seems primed for a title shot.

Charlo's twin brother, Jermall, stopped Josh Williams in five rounds on the undercard.

JESUS SOTO KARASS MD 10 SELCUK AYDIN
JAN. 26, LAS VEGAS (SHOWTIME)

Jesus Soto Karass turned in the signature performance of his career, an impressive upset majority decision over Selcuk Aydin.

One judge turned in a head-scratching score of 95-95, which was overruled by more accurate scores of 97-93 and 97-93.

Soto Karass (27-8-3, 17 KOs) controlled the fight with effective body punching and non-stop pressure. He consistently bullied Aydin to the ropes with a two-fisted midsection attack that seemed to dissuade Aydin from fighting on the inside.

Aydin (23-2, 17 KOs) normally fights with aggression but, under new trainer Adam Booth, tried to box with Karass and never seemed to be comfortable. The Mexican veteran almost doubled the punch output of Aydin (950-523).

Mike Dallas Jr. didn't know what hit him when he was stopped by a single punch from Lucas Matthysse.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

Soto Karass had lost five of his previous seven fights. Aydin lost his second consecutive fight. He was outpointed by Robert Guerrero last July.

NO. 1 LUCAS MATTHYSSE KO 1 MIKE DALLAS JR.
JAN. 26, LAS VEGAS (SHOWTIME)

When Mike Dallas Jr. crashed to the canvas face-first in the opening round of his fight with Lucas Matthysse, it simply underscored what everyone already knew: Matthysse is one bad man.

Matthysse (33-2, 31 KOs) landed a crushing overhand right that rendered Dallas motionless. Referee Robert Byrd reached the count of five, but when it was apparent Dallas wasn't moving anytime soon, he waved the bout off at 2:26.

Dallas (19-3-1, 8 KOs) was a late replacement for lightweight contender Hank Lundy, who withdrew amid managerial issues. He came out quickly and tried to establish his jab but never had time to get settled into the fight. He landed a few body shots before the end came.

It was the fifth consecutive knockout for the Argentine power-puncher, whose only two losses came to Zab Judah and Devon Alexander via controversial decisions.

NO. 7 CARLOS MOLINA UD 12 CORY SPINKS
FEB. 1, CHICAGO (ESPN 2)

Carlos Molina added the biggest name to his win column, outlasting Cory Spinks over 12 rounds on ESPN's *Friday Night Fights*.

The Chicago-based boxer controlled the fight from the opening bell and won by scores of 119-106, 119-106 and 120-105.

Molina (21-5-2, 6 KOs) used good movement and well-timed left hooks against past-his-prime Spinks. He also couldn't miss with the overhand right and Spinks was on the defensive the whole fight, though that once-impregnable guard has drastically diminished.

Spinks (39-8, 11 KOs) was clearly outboxed through nine rounds, but Molina really began pouring it on in the 10th, electing to throw more power shots. In the 11th, he dropped Spinks to all fours with a big left hook.

Spinks went down a second time in the 12th when he fell into the ropes as the final seconds ticked off the clock and his career.

SAM SOLIMAN UD 12 NO. 2 FELIX STURM
FEB. 1, DUSSELDORF, GERMANY

Australian journeyman Sam Soliman pulled off a major upset by outpointing Felix Sturm in Sturm's home country of Germany, securing a spring title fight with countryman Daniel Geale. The scores were 114-113, 114-113 and 116-111.

Sturm (37-4-2, 16 KOs) started strong and seemed on his way to victory when he dropped Soliman in the second round with a big overhand right. Soliman (43-11, 17 KOs) was in trouble and was hurt again moments later, but he made it out of the round. He gathered himself and began to steadily outwork Sturm in an entertaining fight, consistently beating the longtime titleholder to the punch to earn the victory.

The bout with Geale will be the 39-year-old Soliman's third crack at the title. He came up short in two previous

Juergen Braehmer's victory over Eduard Gutknecht (left) could land him a shot at Nathan Cleverly.
Image: Photo Wende

attempts against Anthony Mundine, but he is perhaps best known for a 2005 loss to Winky Wright on HBO.

FRANKIE GOMEZ UD 10 LANARD LANE
FEB. 2, LAS VEGAS (FOX SPORTS)

Talented East L.A. prospect Frankie Gomez went the 10-round distance for the first time with a shutout decision of Lanard Lane. Each judge turned in an identical card of 100-90.

The bout was Gomez's third under the tutelage of Freddie Roach and he seems to be progressing. The standout amateur is just 21 years old and is gifted, but an arrest and questions about his dedication to the sport have slowed his development.

Gomez met the best opponent of his career in Lane (13-3, 8 KOs), but the 30-year-old Philadelphian was tentative and was outworked.

Gomez (15-0, 11 KOs) hurt Lane in the fifth round, but was never able to place his foe on the canvas. If Gomez remains active and out of trouble, he could become a player at welterweight.

JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ TKO 9 ALDIMAR SILVA SANTOS
FEB. 2, BAYAMON, PUERTO RICO (DIRECTV)

No apology was necessary this time.

Juan Manuel Lopez did what he had to in his first bout since his suspension and apology for attributing his knockout loss to Orlando Salido in March to what he said was the referee's gambling habit.

Lopez, an ex-featherweight champion, wanted to show maturity. We'll have to wait on that. Growing up, like coming back, is a process. Maybe it'll lead to a test of Lopez's poise and chin. Aldimar Silva Santos, 1-2 over his last three fights, wasn't that test.

Lopez (32-2, 29 KOs) dropped Santos (18-4, 9 KOs) three times. In the ninth, he followed a flurry with a left for the third knockdown, leading to an unapologetic TKO with 1:04 left in the round.

NO. 8 JUERGEN BRAEHMER UD 12 EDUARD GUTKNECHT
FEB. 2, BERLIN

Juergen Braehmer, whose troubled career includes run-ins with the law and injury, looked as if he might be in for some more trouble against Eduard Gutknecht.

But Braehmer (39-2, 30 KOs) survived to claim the European light heavyweight title with a debatable decision over Gutknecht. Both appeared to tire in the late rounds.

Gutknecht (24-2, 9 KOs) managed to land some big punches but not enough and was penalized in the ninth for using his forearm. The result was a victory for Braehmer by scores of 117-100, 116-111 and 114-113.

With the win, the former 175-pound beltholder put himself in line for a shot at RING No. 3-rated Nathan Cleverly of Wales.

KEVIN BIZIER TKO 8 NATE CAMPBELL
FEB. 8, MONTREAL (ESPN2/ESPN DEPORTES)

Kevin Bizier (20-0, 14 KOs) had the opportunity to introduce himself to an American television audi-

Carl Frampton's convincing victory over Kiko Martinez was a big step in his career.
Image: Lawrence Lustig-MatchroomSport

ence. But it's difficult to judge the Canadian welterweight's stoppage of Nate Campbell, who is closer to an AARP card than he is his prime.

The 40-year-old Campbell (36-10-1, 26 KOs), a former lightweight champion, looked his age and sounded even older when he quit after eight rounds. He couldn't continue, he claimed, but not because of punches.

Back spasms.

Campbell, a trash talker in better days, is known for saying a lot of things. Bizier's corner said the real damage was done by a balanced attack to Campbell's head, body and maybe his ego.

NO. 5 CARL FRAMPTON TKO 9 KIKO MARTINEZ
FEB. 9, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (SKY SPORTS)

Carl Frampton passed his sternest test yet with flying colors, stopping Kiko Martinez in nine rounds to claim the European 122-pound title.

The bout was waged at a furious pace, with Martinez constantly motoring forward and Frampton fighting on his heels. The Spaniard was able to control the pace of the fight and consistently push Frampton into the ropes, but Frampton (16-0, 11 knockouts) countered with accurate overhand rights and shots to the body while going backward.

Martinez (27-4, 19 knockouts) bullied Frampton into the corner in the ninth and connected with a right when he was met by a short right down the pipe that stopped him in his tracks and put him on the seat of his pants. Martinez attempted to get to his feet, but his legs were gone and referee Anssi Perajoki halted the bout as Martinez stumbled into the ropes. The time of the stoppage was 2:46.

A high-profile U.K. fight against RING No. 6 junior featherweight Scott Quigg could be next for Frampton.

DELVIN RODRIGUEZ TKO 6 GEORGE TAHDOOAHNIPPAH
FEB. 15, UNCASVILLE, CONN. (ESPN2)

Rodriguez (27-6-3, 15 KOs) will never be a star but he's a good, experienced junior middleweight capable of giving most contenders a challenge.

Tahdooahnippah (31-1-1, 23 KOs) had a gaudy record and a good story – he's a leader in the Comanche Nation – going into the fight, the Friday Night Fights main event. However, a quick look at the Oklahoman's record reveals that Rodriguez represented an enormous step up in competition.

The result? A mismatch.

Tahdooahnippah had plenty of courage but not nearly enough in the way of ability against a fighter like Rodriguez, who battered the underdog from post to post until the fight was stopped in the sixth round to spare Tahdooahnippah from taking more punishment.

The fight was Rodriguez's first since he lost a one-sided decision to WBA junior middleweight titleholder Austin Trout in June 2012.

FIGHT RESULTS

THROUGH FEB. 18, 2013

HEAVYWEIGHTS

AMIR MANSOUR KO 1 DOMINIQUE ALEXANDER
FRANKLIN LAWRENCE KO 2 MARK BROWN
ARTUR SZPILKA KO 6 MIKE MOLLO
SONNY BILL WILLIAMS W 10 FRANS BOTHA
DENIS BOYTSOV W 8 SAMIR KURTAGIC

CRUISERWEIGHTS

DANIEL AMMANN W 10 DAVID ALOUA
DANIEL SANABRIA KO 4 WALTER CABRAL
JON LEWIS DICKINSON W 12 DAVID DOLAN
ILUNGA MAKABU KO 4 GOGITA GORGILADZE

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

JUERGEN BRAEHMER W 12 EDUARD GUTKNECHT
ROBERT WOGE KO 11 HAKIM ZOULIKHA
DUSTIN DIRKS KO 3 CHRISTIAN CRUZ
FRANKIE FILIPPONE W 10 KEVIN ENGEL
GARTH WOOD KO 9 TOGASILIMAI LETOA
RYNO LIEBENBERG KO 4 FLASH ISSAKA

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

ROBERT STIEGLITZ KO 3 MICHAL NIERODA
DON GEORGE KO 1 JAMES COOK
DOMINIK BRITSCH W 8 LUIS CRESPO
ANDRE DIRRELL W 10 MICHAEL GBENGA
SAKIO BIKA W 12 NIKOLA SJEKLOCA
NOE ALCOBA KO 1 IDIOZAN MATOS

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

BRIAN VERA KO 10 SERGEI DZINZIRUK
CERRESSO FORT KO 5 ANDY KOLLE
DANIEL GEALE W 12 ANTHONY MUNDINE
SAM SOLIMAN W 12 FELIX STURM
MAX BURSAK KO 3 JULIEN MARIE SAINTE
DAISUKE NAKAGAWA W 10 TAKEHIRO SHIMOKAWARA
ALVARO GAONA W 12 JESUS NERIO
PATRICK NIELSEN W 12 PATRICK MENDY
ANDY LEE W 10 ANTHONY FITZGERALD
GRZEGORZ PROKSA W 6 NORBERT SZEKERES
YORI BOY CAMPAS W 10 GABRIEL MARTINEZ
JOSE UZCATEGUI W 10 ROGELIO MEDINA
MATT KOROBOV KO 5 ARTURO RODRIGUEZ

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Lucas Matthysse celebrates his dramatic first-round knockout of Mike Dallas Jr. on Jan. 26 in Las Vegas.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

DEMETRIUS ANDRADE W 10 FREDDY HERNANDEZ
JERMELL CHARLO KO 8 HARRY JOE YORGEY
JERMALL CHARLO KO 5 JOSH WILLIAMS
CARLOS MOLINA W 12 CORY SPINKS
ANTWONE SMITH W 10 JOSE LUIS CASTILLO
YOSHIHIRO KAMEGAI KO 2 JOSE ALBERTO LEAL
JAVIER MACIEL KO 5 EMILIO JULIO
DANIEL SANDOVAL KO 2 MARTIN AVILA

DELVIN RODRIGUEZ KO 6 GEORGE TAHDOOAHNIPPAH
AYOUB NEFZI KO 6 ISHMAEL TETTEH
DEMETRIUS HOPKINS KO 6 CHARLES WHITTAKER

WELTERWEIGHTS

JORGE PAEZ JR. KO 9 FRANCISCO FUENTES
JESUS SOTO KARASS MD 10 SELCUK AYDIN
FRANKIE GOMEZ W 10 LANARD LANE
KEVIN BIZIER KO 8 NATE CAMPBELL
RAY ROBINSON W 10 ALBERTO MORALES
TEERACHAI KRATINGDAENGGYM KO 5 DONDON SULTAN
ROBERTO ORTIZ TD 6 FIDEL MUNOZ

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

WILLIE LIMOND KO 1 EDDIE DOYLE
VICENTE MOSQUERA DQ 6 FRANCISCO CONTRERAS
EMMANUEL TAYLOR KO 6 RAYMOND SERRANO
DANNY O'CONNOR W 10 DEREK SILVEIRA
LUCAS MATTHYSSE KO 1 MIKE DALLAS JR.
CHAD BENNETT KO 3 BEN ANKRAH
RUBEN NIETO W 10 DANIEL RASILLA
HUMBERTO SOTO W 12 SILVERIO ORTIZ
ANTONIO LOZADA JR. KO 1 JOSE PAYAN
SHINYA IWABUCHI KO 8 VALENTINE HOSOKAWA
DIERRY JEAN KO 2 JUAN RIVERA

LIGHTWEIGHTS

JOSE HERNANDEZ KO 8 TONY LUIS
JOSE GONZALEZ KO 5 ALEJANDRO RODRIGUEZ
JOSE FELIX JR. W 10 GERARDO ROBLES
BRUNET ZAMORA W 12 KRZYSZTOF SZOT
CHRIS HOWARD KO 3 BAYAN JARGAL
FIDEL MALDONADO JR. KO 3 JORGE ROMERO
ADRIEN BRONER KO 5 GAVIN REES

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

FRANCISCO VARGAS KO 2 IRA TERRY
MICKEY BEY JR. KO 3 ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
BAHA LAHAM W 10 TYLER ASSELSTINE
JOMTHONG CHUWATANA W 12 RONALD PONTILLAS
BEN JONES W 12 KRIS HUGHES
EDNER CHERRY KO 6 VICENTE ESCOBEDO

FEATHERWEIGHTS

ROMULO KOASICHA KO 2 EDEN MARQUEZ
JOEL BRUNKER W 8 IVAN HERNANDEZ
CHONLATARN PIRIYAPINYO KO 4 ARIEF BLADER
ANDRES GUTIERREZ KO 2 JOSE CARMONA
JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ KO 9 ALDIMAR SILVA SANTOS
ALEXANDER MISKIRTCHIAN KO 12 ANDREAS EVENSEN
LEE SELBY W 12 MARTIN LINDSAY
(F) AMANDA SERRANO KO 1 WANDA OZUNA

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

(F) JESSICA RAKOCZY W 10 ADA VELEZ
FABIAN OROZCO KO 3 RAMON CONTRERAS
(F) YESICA MARCOS SD 10 MARCELA ACUNA
HUGO CAZARES W 12 REY PEREZ
SOD KOKIETGYM W 12 RANDY MEGRINO
CARL FRAMPTON KO 9 KIKO MARTINEZ
JONATHAN ROMERO W 12 ALEJANDRO LOPEZ

BANTAMWEIGHTS

ALBERT PAGARA KO 3 JILO MERLIN
SURIYAN SOR RUNGVISAI W 6 ELMAR FRANCISCO
(F) YAZMIN RIVAS SD 10 MARIA VILLALOBOS
TABTIMDAENG NA RACHAWAT KO 3 WILLEM MARAHINA
JULIO CEJA KO 5 HENRY MALDONADO
ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ JR. KO 2 HANZEL MARTINEZ

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

FELIPE ORUCUTA KO 1 FERNANDO LUMACAD
CARLOS RUEDA KO 6 EDGAR JIMENEZ
MCJOE ARROYO KO 4 FELIPE RIVAS
OLEYDONG SITHSAMERCHAI W 6 FALAZONA FIDAL

FLYWEIGHTS

JERSON MANCIO W 10 GERPAUL VALERO
NAWAPHON POR CHOKCHAI KO 8 RONEREX DALUT
(F) SUSI KENTIKIAN W 10 SANAE JAH
MCWILLIAMS ARROYO KO 4 MIGUEL TAMAYO
NOKNOI SITTHIPRASERT W 12 KENICHI HORIKAWA

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

YODMONGKOL VOR SAENGTHEP KO 7 CRISON OMAYAO
(F) YESICA BOPP TD 10 MARISA PORTILLO
SAUL JUAREZ KO 10 ARMANDO TORRES
LUIS CEJA KO 5 ALEJANDRO MORALES

STRAWWEIGHTS

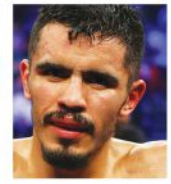
WANHENG MENAYOTHIN W 6 JACK AMISA
HEKKIE BUDLER W 12 RENAN TRONGCO

MARCH

TIMOTHY BRADLEY VS. RUSLAN PROVODNIKOV

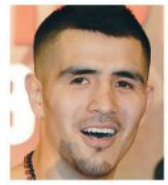
DATE: March 16, 2013
LOCATION: Carson, Calif.
DIVISION: Welterweight (for Bradley's WBO title)
TV: HBO
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Jessie Vargas vs. Wale Omotosu, 10 rounds, welterweights
SIGNIFICANCE: Bradley (29-0, 12 KOs) had hoped for a lucrative rematch with Manny Pacquiao, who he outpointed last June. Instead, nine months after that fight, he'll have to settle for a title defense against the tough but relatively unknown Provodnikov (22-1, 15 KOs). We'll see how motivated Bradley is.
PREDICTION: Michael Rosenthal – Bradley TKO 9; Doug Fischer – Bradley UD; Lem Satterfield – Bradley KO 9.

RICKY BURNS VS. MIGUEL VAZQUEZ



DATE: March 16, 2013
LOCATION: London
DIVISION: Lightweight (for Burns' WBO and Vazquez's IBF titles)
TV: Epix
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Nathan Cleverly vs. Robin Krasniqi, 12 rounds, for Cleverly's WBO light heavyweight title; George Groves vs. Mouhamed Ali Ndiaye, 12 rounds, super middleweights
SIGNIFICANCE: Burns (35-2, 10 KOs) faces his biggest test to date in the slick Vazquez (33-3, 13 KOs), who has the ability to frustrate opponents with his in-and-out movement. The winner could earn a shot at WBC lightweight titleholder Adrien Broner, which could turn out to be a booby prize.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Vazquez SD; Fischer – Burns SD; Satterfield – Vazquez MD.

BRANDON RIOS VS. MIKE ALVARADO



DATE: March 30, 2013
LOCATION: Las Vegas
DIVISION: Junior welterweight
TV: HBO
Watchability rating (up to five stars): ★★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Khabib Allakhverdiev vs. Breidis Prescott, 12 rounds, junior welterweights
SIGNIFICANCE: The Oct. 13 meeting between Rios (31-0-1, 23 KOs) and Alvarado (33-1, 23 KOs) was one of the most exciting fights of 2012. There's no reason to believe the brawlers' second fight will turn out differently. Rios won the first meeting by a sensational seventh-round knockout.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Rios KO 10; Fischer – Rios KO 10; Satterfield – Rios KO 6.

OTHER MATCHES

MARCH 15 – Orlando Cruz vs. Aalan Martinez, 12 rounds, featherweights, in Kissimmee, Fla. (Telemundo) … Peter Manfredo Jr. vs. Joey Spina, 10 rounds, light heavyweights, in Lincoln, R.I.
MARCH 16 – Robert Marroquin vs. Antonio Escalante, 10 rounds, featherweights, in Thackerville, Okla. (UniMas) … Johnriel Casimero vs. Luis Alberto Rios, 12 rounds, for Casimero's IBF junior flyweight title, in Panama.
MARCH 22 – Adonis Stevenson vs. Darnell Boone, rematch, 10 rounds, super middleweights, in Montreal (WealthTV).
MARCH 23 – Arthur Abraham vs. Robert Stieglitz, 12 rounds, for Abraham's WBO super middleweight title, in Germany … James DeGale vs. Pablo Farias, 12 rounds, super middleweights, in Kent, England.
MARCH 29 – Brian Vera vs. Donatas Bondorovas, 10 rounds, middleweights, in Verona, N.Y. (ESPN2).
MARCH 30 – Gennady Golovkin vs. Nobuhiro Ishida, 12 rounds, for Golovkin's WBA middleweight title, in Monaco … Tony Bellew vs. Isaac Chilemba, 12 rounds, light heavyweights, in Liverpool, England.

APRIL

NONITO DONAIRE VS. GUILLERMO RIGONDEAUX

DATE: April 13, 2013
LOCATION: Radio City Music Hall, New York City
DIVISION: Junior featherweight (for Donaire's WBO and Rigondeaux's WBA titles)
TV: HBO
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
SIGNIFICANCE: Donaire (31-1, 20 KOs) faces yet another in a long line of top-tier opponents in the slick Rigondeaux (11-0, 8 KOs). The calculating Cuban might not make for an exciting fight but, in light of his unquestioned skills and experience, he could represent Donaire's biggest test to date.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Donaire KO 8; Fischer – Donaire KO 6; Satterfield – Donaire MD.

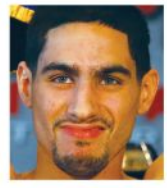
SERGIO MARTINEZ VS. MARTIN MURRAY

DATE: April 27, 2013
LOCATION: Buenos Aires, Argentina
DIVISION: Middleweights (for Martinez's RING and WBC titles)
TV: HBO
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Luis Carlos Abregu vs. Antonin Decarie, 12 rounds, welterweights

THE RING junior featherweight champ Nonito Donaire (left) will face Guillermo Rigondeaux in an intriguing matchup on April 13 in New York City.
Image: Naoki Fukuda

SIGNIFICANCE: Murray (25-0-1, 11 KOs) probably doesn't stand a better chance against Martinez (50-2-2, 28 KOs) than countrymen Darren Barker and Matthew Macklin. The storyline here is Martinez's triumphant return to his homeland after making his name in Spain and the U.S.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Martinez KO 9; Fischer – Martinez UD; Satterfield – Martinez KO 11.

DANNY GARCIA VS. ZAB JUDAH



DATE: April 27, 2013
LOCATION: Brooklyn, N.Y.
DIVISION: Junior welterweights (for Garcia's RING, WBC and WBA titles)
TV: Showtime
WATCHABILITY RATING (UP TO FIVE STARS): ★★★★
ALSO FIGHTING: Peter Quillin vs. Fernando Guerrero, 12 rounds, for Quillin's WBO middleweight title.
SIGNIFICANCE: Judah (42-7, 29 KOs) has been known to fold in his biggest fights but probably has the skills and experience to test Garcia (25-0, 16 KOs), who continues to confound his critics. In light of Garcia's power, we can't help but to think of Judah's KO loss to Kostya Tszyu.
PREDICTION: Rosenthal – Garcia KO 6; Fischer – Garcia KO 7; Satterfield – Garcia KO 9.

OTHER APRIL FIGHTS

APRIL 5 – Marvin Quintero vs. Ammeth Diaz, 12 rounds, featherweights, in Santa Ynez, Calif. (ESPN2).
APRIL 6 – Zou Shiming vs. TBA, four rounds, junior flyweights, in Macau (Chinese Olympic champion's pro debut). Also on that card, Rocky Martinez vs. Diego Magdaleno, 12 rounds, for Martinez's WBO junior lightweight title and Brian Viloria vs. Juan Francisco Estrada, 12 rounds, for Viloria's WBA/WBO flyweight titles.
APRIL 7 – Koki Kameda vs. Yonfrez Parejo, 12 rounds, bantamweights, in Japan.
APRIL 8 – Shinsuke Yamanaka vs. Malcolm Tunacao, 12 rounds, for Yamanaka's WBC bantamweight title, in Japan. Also on that card, Toshiyuki Igarashi vs. Akira Yaegashi, 12 rounds, for Igarashi's WBC flyweight title and Gamaliel Diaz vs. Takashi Miura, 12 rounds, for Diaz's WBC junior lightweight title.
APRIL 12 – Andre Dirrell vs. TBA, 10 rounds, super middleweights, in Temecula, Calif. (ESPN2).
APRIL 13 – Cecilia Braekhus vs. Mia St. John, 10 rounds, welterweights, in Denmark.
APRIL 20 – Tyson Fury vs. Steve Cunningham, 12 rounds, heavyweights, in New York (NBC) … Omar Narvaez vs. Daniel Rosas, 12 rounds, for Narvaez's WBO junior bantamweight title, in Argentina.

THE MATCHUPS HERE WERE SCHEDULED AS OF THE TIME WE WENT TO PRESS. PLEASE GO TO RINGTV.COM OR SCAN THIS QR CODE TO VIEW AN UPDATED SCHEDULE.

Image: Chris Farina-Top Rank

Terence Crawford is taking advantage of a second chance after surviving a gunshot wound to his head.

TERENCE CRAWFORD

By: **Mike Coppinger**

Sept. 2, 2008. The date is forever etched in the memory of budding boxer Terence Crawford. That was the day a bullet entered the back of his head.

Crawford had spent the evening shooting dice outside a friend's house in his hometown of Omaha, Neb., when a cordial game became heated. It was time to go. He jumped into his 1986 Cutlass Supreme and glanced in his rear view mirror, where he could see that tempers had reached a dangerous level. He told himself, "Get out of here."

Too late.

"I'm hit!" Crawford screamed a split second after a stray Mack 9 bullet had pierced the back of his skull. Lucky for him the bullet had been slowed by the rear windshield, probably saving his life.

Today, with his boxing career going well, Crawford looks back on the horrible incident as a learning opportunity.

"It made me get tougher," said Crawford, who was 8-0 at the time of the shooting. "It made my mind sharper and it made me think more. One mistake can end your career, just like one mistake can end your life. I'm going in this ring, I might not come out."

Crawford was back in the ring just two months after

the incident with a second-round knockout victory and has continued to grow as a boxer.

The 135-pounder possesses one-punch knockout power and the amateur pedigree to back it up. He won a number of major tournaments before he turned pro, beating the likes of current RING champions Danny Garcia and Mikey Garcia along the way.

Crawford, 25, could become a staple on television if he continues to win, particularly with the backing of promoter Top Rank and manager Cameron Dunkin.

"The HBO guys are aware of him and they like him," said Top Rank matchmaker Brad Goodman, who believes Crawford will make his premium cable debut in late 2013 or early 2014. "He's one of the real good prospects that we have. We're excited about him, we have a lot of faith in him and we believe he can be a champion."

So what separates Crawford from other prospects? His power and effective body punching, according to Dunkin.

"He really can crack," said Dunkin, who has Mikey Garcia, Brandon Rios and Nonito Donaire in his stable. "Those guys are hard to find. You don't see this kind of power. He's a better puncher than Kelly (Pavlik); a better one-punch knockout guy."

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Crawford (right, punching Andre Gorges) has boxing ability and good punching power.

TERENCE CRAWFORD
THE ESSENTIALS

AGE: 25
WEIGHT CLASS: Lightweight
HEIGHT: 5-foot-8
STANCE: Orthodox
NICKNAME: Bud
HOMETOWN: Omaha, Neb.
RECORD: 19-0 (15 knockouts)

Omaha isn't exactly a boxing hotbed but it has a strong link to the sport. Crawford remembers hearing tales of heavyweight great and Omaha native Max Baer during his formative years. The stories inspired him to reach heights his father, uncles and grandfather – all amateur fighters – never did.

Crawford gets frustrated when he sees fighter his age headline major cards and fight for world titles but bides his time. He believes he'll shine when he's under the bright lights.

How confident is he? He believes he is on par with Adrien Broner, who THE RING rates No. 6 pound for pound.

"I'm right there with him," Crawford said. "No question. No ifs, ands or buts about it."

OTHERS TO WATCH

IVAN REDKACH, LIGHTWEIGHT

Redkach (13-0, 11 KOs) was a decorated amateur (reportedly 260-40 in the unpaid ranks) who represented Ukraine as an alternate in the 2008 Olympics. The 26-year-old southpaw power-puncher has employed an exciting pressure style and sound fundamentals to establish himself as one of the top prospects at 135. He is promoted by Lou DiBella.

RANDY CABALLERO, BANTAMWEIGHT

The 2008 U.S. amateur flyweight champion (18-0, 10 KOs) from Coachella, Calif., is on the cusp of contention at 118 pounds. Caballero, 22, stopped veteran Luis Maldonado in his last bout, his biggest victory yet. He's shown good power and an aggressive style. He is promoted by Golden Boy.

TUREANO JOHNSON, MIDDLEWEIGHT

Johnson (13-0, 10 KOs) is attempting to put his island nation of the Bahamas on the fistic map. He represented his homeland at the 2008 Olympics before turning pro in 2010. Johnson's last two bouts came in the span of five days, knockout wins in the first and third rounds, respectively. He is promoted by Gary Shaw.

Image: Naoki Fukuda

Amir Khan (left) said he overtrained for his fight against Marcos Maidana in 2010.

DIMINISHING RETURNS

HARD WORK IN THE GYM IS CRUCIAL BUT OVERDOING IT CAN BACKFIRE

By: **T.K. Stewart**

Mike Donovan, a middleweight boxer who later gained fame by teaching President Theodore Roosevelt and his sons to box, wrote an essay in 1893 entitled "How to Train for a Fight" in which he covered topics such as how often to rest, what foods to eat and how to select a trainer.

An International Boxing Hall of Fame inductee, Donovan was known as "The Professor" because of his breadth of training knowledge. In the 120 years since he composed his treatise on training, theories have abounded regarding the methods one should employ when preparing for a bout.

Often overlooked amid gym sessions, roadwork and diet is the phenomenon known as overtraining. Quite simply, overtraining is what happens when someone does more than they can handle. When workouts are too intense or not enough time is allowed for recovery, the effect on the body is cumulative. Symptoms can be both physical (sore muscles, low energy, nagging injuries) and mental (low concentration, mood changes), and the athlete's progress doesn't just suffer; in some cases it reverses.

Most trainers are familiar with the pitfalls of over-

training and are aware that more exercise is not necessarily better. Freddie Roach and Alex Ariza have often commented that their star thoroughbred, Manny Pacquiao, needs to be reigned in sometimes to avoid overtraining and peaking too soon.

After the great Alexis Arguello lost to Aaron Pryor in 1982, he claimed that Eddie Futch overtrained him and that it affected his performance throughout that legendary bout.

Arguello explained in a 1983 interview with *World Boxing Magazine* that "I was too tight. My muscles were tight. My arms, my legs were tight from too much work. In the first round you feel it. The muscles were tight from overwork. It's like you're a dried out berry in the sun or like you have a bad car battery and the energy is taken away. That's the way I was feeling." Arguello said he nearly doubled his roadwork and trained eight weeks for the bout whereas normally he would train six. "I was running for an hour and 20 minutes a day. If I didn't train good enough, I could find an explanation. But I did everything right. I did everything the right way with my trainers. The only excuse is overtraining."

More recently, Amir Khan told a group of boxing writers that even though he defeated Marcos Maidana in 2010, he and his trainer Freddie Roach believed he had overtrained.

"The first thing Freddie said to me was it was a great performance, we proved the critics wrong. But he really thought I was overtrained for that fight because it was a long training camp, a 13-week training camp and it's a long time," Khan said. "I like to work, I like to push myself and walk out of that gym tired. I don't like going into the gym and not working hard. So, Freddie thinks we overtrained for the fight because I remember being in the fight and I felt muscle fatigue. I didn't really feel tired where my breathing was heavy or anything. It's just that my arms and legs felt a little tired."

Because each fighter is unique, what might be overtraining to one is not enough training for another. "It's different for every guy," said Nazim Richardson, who trains many of the top fighters in the sport. "I'm not going to train Bernard the same I train Steve Cunningham. What happens is a guy finds a program that works for him and he sticks with it. It all depends, but the important thing is to find out what works for the athlete. The trainer has to have the eye and the mind to see when a guy is overdoing it. You know, the trainer gotta know when to pull a guy back, you know what I mean? I was lucky because I learned and listened from the old-timers and they knew what to look for."

Perhaps the final word on overtraining should be left to the consummate old-timer in "Professor" Donovan, who recognized over a century ago that fighters could do too much: "Above all things, let common sense rule in your training," he wrote. "If stale or tired from overwork, rest a day, or even two, to recover your vigor and appetite." ■

Image: Chris Graythen-Getty

Christy Martin (right, fighting Laila Ali) was the face of women's boxing when it hit its peak in the late 1990s.

DOWN BUT NOT OUT?

WOMEN'S BOXING IS STRUGGLING TO FIND ITS WAY IN THE U.S.

By: **Ryan Songalia**

The decade of the 1990s was the golden era for women's boxing in the United States.

Christy Martin was in her prime and fighting on Mike Tyson's undercards. Her epic six-round brawl with Deirdre Gogarty on the Tyson-Frank Bruno card in 1996 – before millions of television viewers – helped put women on the map. Martin would go on to adorn the cover of *Sports Illustrated* and became a regular guest on TV talk shows.

Around the same time, another woman with a decidedly different approach to the sport began to appear on Oscar De La Hoya's cards in the late '90s. Mia St. John, promoted by Top Rank, relied on solid ability, good looks and a knack for self promotion to become a crossover star in her own right. She was featured on the cover of *Playboy* and also made the talk-show rounds.

Women's boxing was never bigger. And then, just as quickly as Martin and St. John emerged, the popularity began to wane. The likes of Lucia Rijker, Laila Ali and Layla McCarter had some success but the opportunities for women dwindled. Today women's boxing is non-existent on national television in the U.S., leaving fans to watch their favorite combatants on YouTube days after they fight.

"I was definitely in the right place at the right time," said Martin, who now goes by her maiden name of Christy Salters and is retired. "I was prepared and ready to take advantage of the opportunity. That's all (promoter Don) King did, he gave me a wonderful opportunity, but he didn't treat me any differently than he did a male fighter. He put me out

there, sink or swim. Whatever happens, happens."

The sport remains a major attraction in Argentina, Mexico and Germany. Stars such as Marcela Acuna, Jackie Nava and Regina Halmich have become major attractions in their home countries, where there is no shortage of TV dates for women. American champions like Ava Knight and Melissa McMorrow routinely travel to other countries in search of worthwhile purses.

Many believed the same thing would happen in the U.S. when Laila Ali, the daughter of Muhammad Ali, followed Martin and St. John. She had top-level skills with looks to match. But when she retired undefeated in 2007 to pursue interests outside of boxing, leaving highly anticipated clashes with Rijker and Ann Wolfe unfulfilled, the sport's momentum came to a grinding halt.

"I think that Laila, she went to the gym, she learned her craft, she's a good fighter," said Salters, who was stopped by the larger Ali in four rounds in 2003. "But I think that she used boxing to get her someplace else. I handed over the reins to Laila Ali but she didn't have the personality that endeared the fans to her. She didn't want to take the time to be with the real people and sometimes fighters forget who is buying the tickets."

St. John attributes the decline in women's boxing in the U.S. to poor television ratings.

"The fans have to want it," said St. John, who is preparing to fight welterweight champ Cecilia Braekhus on April 13 in Denmark. "If the networks don't get the viewership, they're not gonna sell it. The only thing the networks care about is ratings. If the fans don't tune in to watch, the networks will eventually drop them. That's what happens. We weren't getting the ratings."

Salters said she hasn't closely followed the recent crop of female boxers because no fights are on TV but likes what she has seen. She admires amateur star Christina Cruz, who has won six New York Golden Gloves titles. She also is impressed with top amateur Mikaela Mayer, as well as pro champions Kaliesha West and Mariana Juarez. She believes the talent level in women's boxing has improved steadily since her early days in the sport.

St. John, 45, feels the same way.

"Nowadays, there's a lot of girls out there fighting better than a lot of men that I see," she said. "And again, I don't think it's any fault of the women. I think it's just the lack of real interest from the fans.

"It's kind of like women's basketball: The talent's there, but are the Sparks going to bring in the people at Staples Center that the Lakers do?"

Salters doesn't think the situation is grave, however. She remembers how an opportunity handed to her by King blossomed into something special. Can it happen again? She believes it can … but only if the machine gets behind it once again.

"I think what I would do if I had a fighter who had the package – can fight, can speak, would be very promotable to the fans – I would just get out there and personally sell the hell out of [her]," Salters said. "Maybe [the fighters] don't have that driving force behind them and maybe they're intimidated like I was. When I was 20 years old, I sure wasn't going to be as outspoken as I am now at 44, but I learned through those years that you have to be. They have to find a promoter that's willing to take the risk to put them in the places King put me."

Kery Davis, senior vice president of programming for HBO Sports, offers some hope for women's boxing.

"Women's boxing is still very young," Davis told THE RING. "The grass-roots programs, the Olympic Games and the professional ranks are still very early in development and we're monitoring the progress." ■

Mia St. John combined boxing ability, good looks and a knack for self-promotion to become a well-known personality.
Image: Hector Mata AFP-Getty

Former welterweight contender Armando Muniz (left, with actor Tony Danza) has fared well in retirement. Muniz's boxing career peaked in the mid-1970s.

ARMANDO **MUNIZ**

YEARS ACTIVE
1970-1978

RECORD
44-14-1 (30 knockouts)

ACCOMPLISHMENTS
Represented U.S. in 1968 Mexico City Olympics; won NABF welterweight title

CURRENT HOMETOWN
Jarupa Valley, Calif.

WORK
Bail bonds business with his son

ACTIVITIES
Local politics; karaoke with his wife

ARMANDO MUNIZ

By: **Don Stradley**

Life after boxing is perplexing for many fighters. Not Armando Muniz. The former welterweight contender has had a successful run since his retirement in 1978. He enjoyed a stint with the Schlitz Brewing Company and then a lengthy career as a high school math and Spanish teacher.

"I always want to let boxing fans know that I am doing OK and that all of the punches I took – and I took quite a few – did not impair me as they did other boxers," Muniz told THE RING.

Muniz lives east of Los Angeles in Jurupa Valley and works in the bail bonds business with his son. "I make myself part of the community and am involved politically," he said. "My wife and I are very social; you might see us at the local VFW, where the karaoke is popular."

The native of Mexico was one of the bright lights of 1970s California boxing, defeating such top welterweights as Clyde Gray, Ernie Lopez, Hedgemon Lewis and Pete Ranzany. Muniz fell short in WBC title bids against Jose Napoles (twice) and Carlos Palomino (twice) and finally retired after a stoppage loss to Sugar Ray Leonard.

Muniz's resume contains one sore spot: his March 30, 1975 loss to Napoles in Acapulco. Muniz, 67, spoke to THE RING recently about that fight and other topics:

"Fighting at the Olympic Auditorium was super exciting. I used to pass by it when I was a kid and say 'Someday I want to main event there.' It was a dream come true, hearing the fans chant 'Armando! Armando!' There was craziness, but I got used to it. In retrospect I'm glad I was part of it. I was 24, 25, still going to college, but I loved the sport. We had good fights at the Olympic even if there was no headliner. Pure boxing, lots of knockouts.

"My manager thought it would be a good idea for me to fight Emile Griffith. My manager said 'Griffith is getting up there in age.' I knew he was a great fighter; he gave me a boxing lesson. I lost, but the fans gave me a good grade for trying. I was a young whippersnapper, trying to hurt him. You know what he did when I hurt him? He hit my eye with his thumb. I take my hat off to him. He was the most skilled fighter I ever fought, along with Napoles.

"Find the first Napoles fight on YouTube. I was battering him in the 10th round. In the 11th round he threw 12 or 14 low blows, but the referee never warned him. I realized I couldn't win. I had to knock him out. Then the doctor stepped in to look at Napoles' cuts. I read the doctor's lips

in Spanish, saying 'He can't continue.' Then I noticed Jose Sulaiman arguing with the doctor. Sure enough, they gave the fight to Napoles. They said I butted him.

"Years later I asked Sulaiman what happened. Sulaiman said, 'Napoles is my friend. I had to protect him.' This was my life, and he doesn't give a s---. If Sulaiman wants a fighter to be champion, he'll make sure it happens. I'm still bitter about the way it turned out.

"Sulaiman's family invited me to Cancun a few years ago for a WBC convention. They treated me well. I think Sulaiman's son invited me, maybe to make amends. I still run into people who say, 'Armando, you won that fight.' I'm glad they say that, but it doesn't change my financial situation.

"Napoles and I are not buddy-buddy, but we have a friendly relationship. When we found out he was broke, some people arranged a big fund-raising dinner for him. They asked me to be the emcee for the evening. After dinner Napoles came to me and said, 'About what happened in Acapulco, it wasn't my fault.' I told him I understand. We're just the fighters." ■

YouTube

Visit THE RING's
new YouTube channel ...

TheRingDigital

BACK ISSUES
BUILD YOUR
COLLECTION

ORDER TODAY!

Ringtv.com • ringbackissues@sepublications.com • (215) 643-3087

BOXERS ORGANIZING COMMITTEE (BOC)
BOC
FOUNDED 1988

Boxers Organizing Committee (BOC)

Paul Johnson
Executive Director

763-438-2447

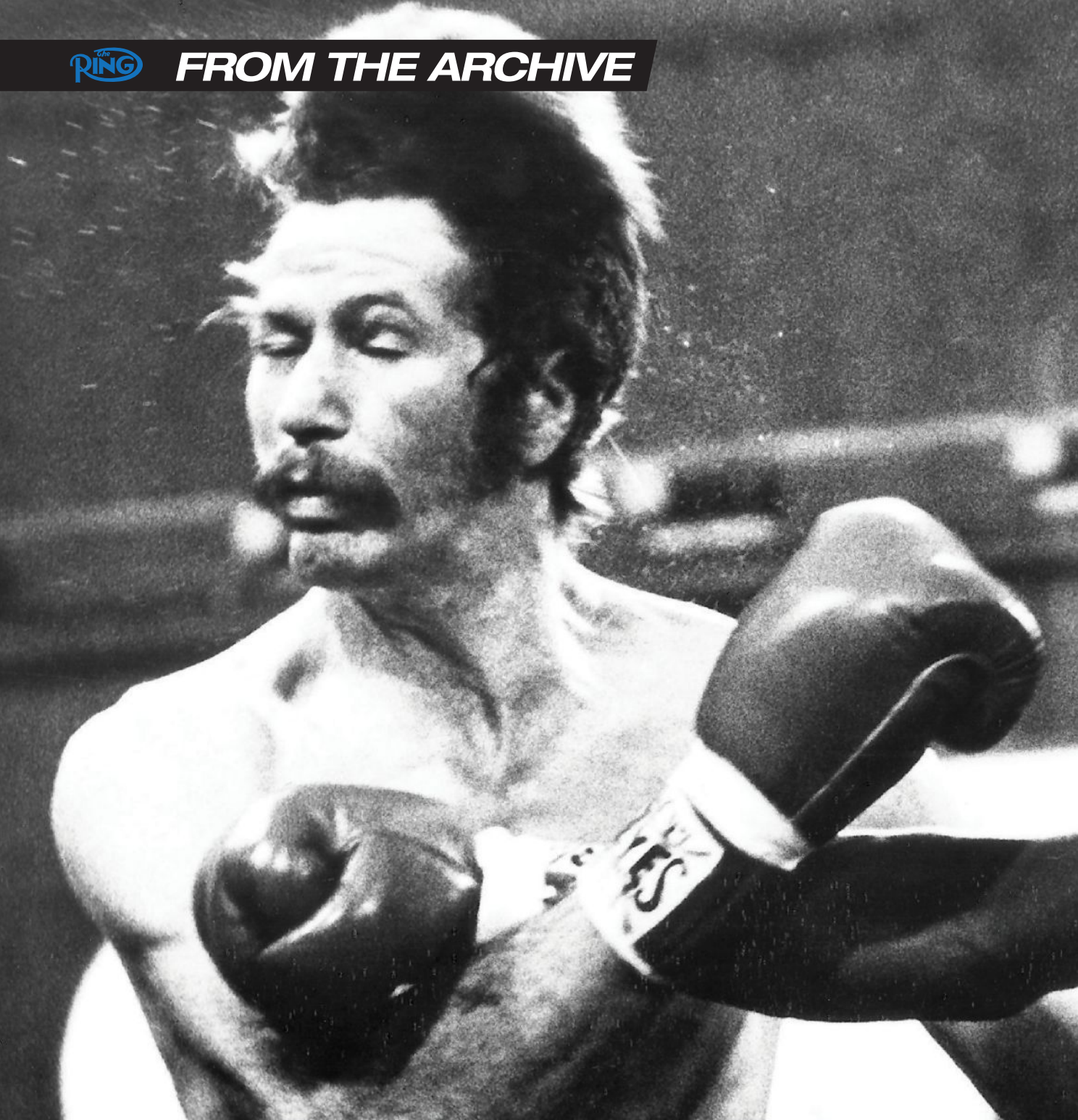
johnson4042@aol.com

www.boxers.org

**Attention Boxers:
Please contact us to
discuss your rights!**

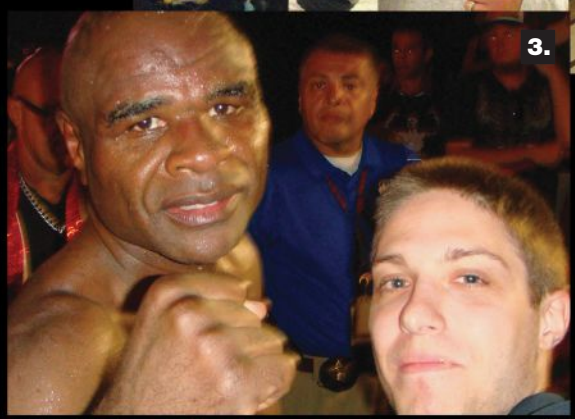
"Boxers must be part of the equation."

— BOC Member José Chegüi Torres



ON THE BUTTON: The great Salvador Sanchez (right) made Danny "Little Red" Lopez his personal punching bag in two memorable fights in 1980. Sanchez, a relative unknown at the time, lifted Lopez's WBC featherweight title on Feb. 2 with a 13th-round knockout. In the June 21 rematch (pictured here) Lopez fought bravely but was picked apart and beaten up again by a superior fighter. Sanchez won the second fight by a 14th-round knockout. The Mexican idol successfully defended his title seven more times before he was killed in a car accident in 1982. He was only 23.

THE RING will select a photo from its vast archive each month to publish in the magazine. For more archive photos, go to our website — RingTV.com — or scan the QR code.



1. Abel Guzman (left) with Brandon Rios at the Juan Manuel Marquez-Manny Pacquiao fight last December in Las Vegas. **2.** Hari K. Samaroo (left) and Rajendra K. Samaroo flank Danny Garica after the Adrien Broner-Antonio DeMarco fight last November in Atlantic City, N.J. **3.** Dino Diliberto (right) with Glen Johnson after Johnson fought Andrzej Fonfara last July in Chicago. **4.** Alexandra Izzo with Adrien Broner with the gloves she painted at a news conference in New York City to promote the Broner-Gavin Rees fight. **5.** Former Golden Gloves boxer Angelo Colella (right) with former welterweight champ Tony DeMarco at an amateur boxing card last August in Somerville, Mass. **6.** Victor Montes de Oca (right) with Marco Antonio Barrera at the Marquez-Pacquiao fight in December.

WANT TO SEE YOURSELF IN RING MAGAZINE?

Send us your photos from a fight with you posing next to a celebrity, athlete, or other famous person and we will consider it for publication in the magazine. Send photos to **celebrityphotos@sepublications.com.** Make sure to include your name(s), celebrity name(s), the fight attended, and your contact information. See you at the fights!

2012 Network of the Year

–BoxingScene.com –BadLeftHook.com

NO ONE GETS YOU CLOSER!

SHOWTIME®

To subscribe: 1-800-SHOWTIME or go to SHO.com

©2013 Showtime Networks Inc. All rights reserved. SHOWTIME is a registered trademark of Showtime Networks Inc., a CBS Company.

CONCERTS, SPORTS
& THEATER TICKETS
WWW BARRYS TICKETS .com
(800) 348-8499
ALL MLB, NBA, NFL, NCAA, NASCAR, SUPER BOWL, FINAL FOUR,
ALL STAR GAME & ALL MAJOR SPORTING EVENTS
www.BarrysTickets.com
WWW BARRYS TICKETS .com
Great Tickets! Great Service! Great Prices!
Call (800) 348-8499 or visit BarrysTickets.com for great deals
on concerts, sports and theater tickets, local & nationwide!